

1.1
1939

W
REFUGEES

W 519
1
11 JAN 1939

Registry Number } W 519/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Sir H. Phillips,
Shanghai.
No. 5 (R)

Dated 10th Jan: 1939

Received in Registry } 11th Jan: 1939

W: Refugees.

Jewish refugee problem in Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 2 of January 3 (W 17001/104/98). Describes the present position in Shanghai and stresses the seriousness of the situation that is developing. Urges that the London organisation be persuaded to remit adequate funds immediately, failing which the local Jewish community will be unable to continue assistance. There is also the risk that unless emigration is checked, the Japanese authorities will institute passport inspection generally.

(Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador, Shanghai No. 7, repeated to Commander-in-Chief No. 4., copy Major General).

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

(W 405/45/48)

Please see W 17001/104/98/1938 r W 275 r 405/45/48

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Mr. Norman
Council for
German Jewry
Jan 20

Mr. Boardman
Committee
for Refugees
Jan 20
Mr. Co.
Mr. So.
Treas.

Mr. Sir H. Emerson
Mr. Brooks
Action completed
Jan 20

W 405
W 483
Jan 20
RC
15/3

Next Paper.

W 483

As regards checking the flow to Shanghai, we have done what we can. The cause of the whole trouble is the lack of ordinary immigration control at Shanghai, which has led the Jews to flock there. There's nothing we can do about that here, & the Consul General doesn't want immigration control established.

As regards sending funds to Shanghai, it is fortunate that the Council for German Jewry's letter in W 405 gives us an easy opening to approach them on the subject. We can give them the facts in this rel. But I still think that it is frightfully difficult for us to press them to send funds here. It's their money & it's for them to decide where it's most needed. We have recently decided

17208 5/38 F.O.P.

decided that we didn't ask them to allot funds to
Banyan Jews, in whom we are specially interested.

If the serious refugee situation in Shanghai is so detrimental to British interests there then it is surely for Hong to take steps to improve the position - either by providing funds for relief, or for immigration elsewhere, or both, or transferring them to camps in Hong-Kong or the Malay States, or whatever else can be done. But any such action involves a complete change of policy, & a request to the Treasury for the funds which it will be very difficult indeed to get. I still think that it is not for the Western Dept to say whether the situation in Shanghai demands these drastic steps.

minutes by Mr. Scott
E. P. Mason

O'Reilly

See minutes for Mr. Scott
✓ for Mr. Brewster
Far Eastern Dept }
Central Dept } for do. 1871

O'Reilly
11/1

I see no objection to our putting the facts before the Council for German Jewry, if F. & S. Dept. think the situation sufficiently serious. But when does the Shanghai Municipal Council come in?

ANSR. 12/i

Yels. Maxim
(no 12)

Home
No. 33

Frage.
no 6

June 19.

Shanghai

(And) No. 44

* bop, Shanghai
B1 Trade
in W 1515

+ Shanghai is within the territory ^(nominally) controlled by the Provisional Govt, which is unrecognized by us, and to which therefore we cannot make representations, and this is obviously not a matter which we can properly take up with the Japanese. There is at present no passport inspection or immigration control at Shanghai, and its institution would lead to all sorts of difficulties with the Japese or their puppets in connexion with British subjects. Formerly, when the National Govt was in control at Shanghai, we advised British subjects to obtain Chinese visas for Shanghai, purely as a courtesy, but we did not admit the right of the Chinese auths. to deny entry to British subjects or to expel them. The present régime are not likely to be so complaisant.

As regards the International Settlement and the French Concession,
the

the Shanghai Municipal Council and the French Concession authorities respectively are responsible for administration under ^{legislation} ~~hand~~ ~~Reg.~~ to which the Chinese Govt and the various foreign Treaty Powers are parties. They are not however sovereign auths. and legally have no powers of expulsion or exclusion. There is no Poor Law or public system of relief in China, and consequently, none in the International Settlement, and relief of the poor and distressed has always been a matter for private charity.

There are large British commercial and property interests at Shanghai and five of the present Municipal Councillors are British. The Shanghai problem however as a whole and in its particular aspects is an international question which requires to be dealt with
on

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

on international lines but in present circs. cannot be so dealt with owing to the difficulty of negotiating with the ~~Japanese~~ Japanese while they are still engaged in hostilities against the National Govt of China. ^{deeply} H.M.C. are ~~deeply~~ interested in anything affecting the ability of the Shanghai Municipal Council to maintain law and order in the International Settlement, but it is not for them, nor have they the power, to take administrative action in the matter or provide funds for relief. It seems clearly a matter for action by Jewish organizations at this end - and they may find it difficult to stop further departures for Shanghai from Germany or Austria unless an alternative asylum is provided. For myself, I see no reason at all why the cost of relief of these fresh immigrants into Shanghai or of sending them elsewhere sh'd fall

fall on private charity or on the Shanghai ratepayer, and every reason why that cost should not be debited to the various funds raised in this country in the same way as would have been the case if they had remained in Germany or Austria, or come to this country while awaiting admission elsewhere.

Aug. 15/17

Sir J. Braham.

The position is as stated by Mr. Scott.

The Council of the International Settlement have no power to control admission to Shanghai and consequently they are averse to using municipal funds for the relief of refugees. Such action would only encourage the arrival of more refugees and the financial problem would get completely beyond their means. They had to face the same question with the influx of White Russians after the Russian revolution.

There would be the same result if the Jewish organisations remitted funds to Shanghai, as suggested by Sir H. Phillips.

It/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

It would only attract more Jews to Shanghai from all over the world.

Apart from such steps as may be possible to dissuade Jewish refugees from going to Shanghai, I do not think that His Majesty's Government can do anything in the matter. The problem will settle itself in due course, and either the destitution suffered by Jews in Shanghai will deter others from going there, or else the local authorities, i.e. the Japanese and their puppets, will control immigration. This will doubtless be inconvenient to other people, but it will at least deal with the local Jewish question.

SK
17/1 X

We had better reply to the Council for German Jews' letter in W 405 on the lines of these minutes, and of the fresh information contained in W 783 and W 842. We should make a similar appeal for cooperation to the Coordinating Office for Refugees, who are in touch with all the chief voluntary organisations, and inform the L. of N. High Commissioner's office and

and the Inter-Governmental ~~Office~~
 we might also let Berlin, Rome
 and Prague know the gravity of the
 present position (see W 783) and
 ask them to warn the local
 Jewish organisations, in continuation
 of the action which they will
 have taken on our Acls. in W 17001,
 and tell Shanghai what we are
 doing.

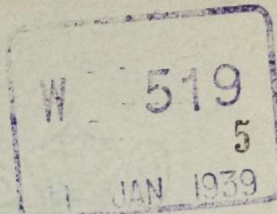
Drafts.

C.H. Johnston.

19.1.

MZ
19/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.



NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. ⁵¹⁴ ~~14~~. Phillips. (Shanghai). 10th January, 1939.

D. W/T. 10th January, 1939.

R. 3.30 p.m. 10th January, 1939.

No. 5. R.

Foreign Office telegram No. 2 to His Majesty's Ambassador
Shanghai.

Belief expressed by Jewish organization in London that Jews
in Shanghai with the help of those in Singapore should be able to
cope with situation is both erroneous and injurious.

2. Jewish community in Shanghai has very few wealthy members
and actually the entire financial burden of local Jewish refugee
problem is resting entirely on the shoulders of 4 or 5 Jews who
are genuinely alarmed at the failure of London organisation correctly
to assess the position here and to remit adequate funds. Possibility
of obtaining assistance from Hongkong and the Malay States have been
explored but position of Jews in these territories is I understand
similar to those in Shanghai and only a mere handful are able to
make donations.

3. Everything is being done to assist those refugees who wish
to emigrate to the Dominions but as all emigration and (grp. undec.)
financial [grp. undec] very little can be done in this connection.

4. Manchoukio offers no hope whatsoever as a possible outlet
for refugees who would certainly not be permitted to enter there if
only for reasons that many indigent Russian communities already
exist in that territory.

5. I venture once more to stress the very serious situation
that is developing here and to request that every effort may be

made /

JAN 11 1939
F.O. REGISTRY.

2.

made to persuade London organisation to remit adequate funds immediately failing which local Jewish community has declared it will be quite impossible for them to continue to succour refugees already here. Moreover there is a definite risk that unless this emmigration is checked without further delay Japanese authorities will institute passport inspection generally at Shanghai which would be damaging to British interests and foreign interests.

Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador Shanghai No. 7
January 10th, repeated to the Foreign Office No. 5, Commander-in-Chief No. 4, copy to Major General.

OUT FILE

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7 X

2

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

20th January, 1939.

(W 519/519/48)

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to refer to your letter NB/DLM of the 6th January, regarding the position of destitute refugees from Germany at Shanghai.

2. In reply I am to explain that there is under the existing regulations no system of passport inspection or immigration control at Shanghai, so that it is impossible to diminish the flow of refugees to that city by measures taken locally. Such a result can only be obtained by bringing home to refugees proposing to travel to Shanghai the extreme gravity of the position there and by taking all possible steps to dissuade them while still in Europe from any attempt to proceed there. It is understood that the Jewish organisations in London and Paris have in fact been endeavouring for some time past to deter further refugees from going to Shanghai. His Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Rome and Prague have now been requested to take any action they may think possible to the same end. Furthermore His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai has been requested to take all possible steps locally with a view to obtaining admission for individual refugees to the United States and the British Dominions and to enlist the help of other Jewish communities in the Far East. The League of Nations High

Commissioner

Norman Bentwich, Esq.,
Council for German Jewry,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place,
W.C.1.

Commissioner for Refugees and the Director of the London Inter-Governmental Committee have been kept informed of the position.

3. Nevertheless His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai now reports that the Committee for the assistance of European Jews in Shanghai have no more funds in hand and from this week onwards will be unable to make any provision not only for such new refugees as may arrive but also for those already in Shanghai. This account of the seriousness of the position is fully confirmed by His Majesty's Ambassador in China, who requests that the attention of the Jewish organisations in London may be called to the urgent need for relief.

4. So far as action by His Majesty's Government is concerned, it is feared that no further steps can usefully be taken beyond those mentioned in paragraph 2 above. It will be understood that no Government funds are available for the settlement of refugees, and that the schemes of settlement in colonial territories will provide no openings for any appreciable number of refugees for many months, so that there is no possibility of any immediate alleviation of the present conditions from this direction.

5. In the circumstances it appears that the problem can only be solved with the co-operation of the voluntary organisations, by whom the real gravity of the position at Shanghai can best be brought home to individual refugees. I am accordingly to request that you will give all possible assistance with a view to achieving this object and thereby dissuading refugees from proceeding to Shanghai.

6. A similar request for co-operation is being
addressed

addressed to the Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees, 5, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.1., and the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Director of the London Inter-Governmental Committee are being informed of the present correspondence.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) WALTER ROBERTS

OUT FILE

10

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(W 519/519/48)

20th January, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to transmit to you herewith copies of correspondence between this department and the Council for German Jewry regarding the position of destitute refugees from Germany at Shanghai.

2. I am to request that you will be good enough to bring to the notice of your co-operating organisations the substance of the letter from this department to the Council, with a view to securing their assistance in dissuading refugees from proceeding to Shanghai in the light of the conditions described in paragraph 3 of that letter.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) WALTER ROBERTS.

The Honorary Secretary,

Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees,

5, Mecklenburgh Square,

W.C.1.

(W 519/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes (Berlin) No. 12,
the Earl of Perth (Rome) No. 33,
Mr. Newton (Prague) No. 6,

Foreign Office, 19th January, 1939. 7.10 p.m.

(R).

My telegram No. $\frac{1}{2}$ [of the 3rd January: Jewish refugee
 $\frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{1}{2}$ problem at Shanghai].

His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai reports that local relief organization have no more funds in hand and from present week onwards will be unable to provide not only for any new refugees who may arrive but also for those already in Shanghai.

Please warn Jewish organisations of this situation, in continuation of action which you will have taken on receipt of my telegram under reference.

(W 519/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai),
Foreign Office, 19th January, 1939. 7.25 p.m.
No. 44. (R).

Your telegram No. 29 [of January 16th: Jewish refugee problem in Shanghai].

Relief organisations have been informed of position described in Sir H. Phillips' telegram [No. 5 of 16th January] and they have been requested in the light of the conditions described to co-operate with a view to dissuading refugees from proceeding to Shanghai.

His Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Rome and Prague are being requested to take similar action.

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES

13 W

Telephone: MUSEUM 2900.

Telegrams: ELPIS, WESTCENT, LONDON.

Replies to be addressed to the Secretary.

BLOOMSBURY HOUSE,

BLOOMSBURY STREET,

LONDON, W.C.1.

Our Reference: M/P

INDEXED

2nd February 1939

The Under-Secretary of State
Foreign Office
London S.W.1.

Sir,

Reference: W 519/519/48.

Thank you for your letter of January 20th enclosing copies of correspondence between your department and the Council for German Jewry regarding the position of destitute refugees from Germany at Shanghai. I will pass this information on to the various members of the Co-ordinating Committee.

I must apologise for the delay in replying to your communication, but we are in a state of reorganisation.

Yours truly,

Kate Karau

KATE KARAU.

2

W

1939

REFUGEES

W 783
14
16 JAN 1939

Situation as regards refugees in Shanghai.
The Committee for the assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai cannot support any fresh arrivals and are unable to deal with those already in Shanghai. His Majesty's Ambassador at Shanghai is requested to telegraph to the Foreign Office in support of this further appeal for funds to be sent to relieve the very serious situation which has arisen.
(Copy Commander-in-Chief and Major General).

Request Number W 783/519/48
TELEGRAM FROM
Sir H. Phillips
(Shanghai)
No. 9 R
Dated 14th Jan.
Received 1939
in Registry }
16th Jan. 1939
W: Refugees.

Last Paper.

(W 519)

References.

(Minutes.)

See W 519.

C.H. Johnston.

18. i.

M
F.E.
Central } Depts.

(Print.)

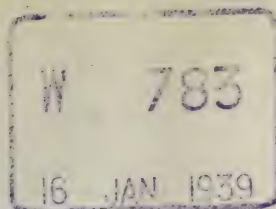
(How disposed of.)

copy
Co.
to.
Heads
Sir H. Johnston
Mr. Brooks
for W 519.
Jan 20

(Action completed.)	(Index.)
Jan 15/3	15/3

Next Paper.

W 842



15

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir H. Phillips (Shanghai)
14th January 1939.

D. W/T 14th January 1939.

R. 5.00 p.m. 14th January 1939.

No.9. R.

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Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador Shanghai telegram
No.12 January 14th.

Committee for assistance of European Jewish refugees in
Shanghai wrote yesterday to Municipal Council stating that
they have no more funds in hand and that from next week on-
wards they will be unable to take care not only of any new
refugees who may arrive but also of those already in Shanghai.

2. Serious situation to which I have already drawn attention
requires immediate help from outside as I cannot see how
Shanghai can successfully cope with the problem. I should
be grateful if Your Excellency could see your way to telegraph-
ing in support of this further appeal for funds to be sent to
the relief of this pressing need.

Repeated to the Foreign Office telegram No. 9 copy
to the Commander-in-Chief and Major General.

3.

1939

W

REFUGEES

W 842

16

17 JAN 1939

Registry Number W 842/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Sir A. Clark Kerr.
Shanghai.

No. 29 (R)

Dated 16th Jan. 1939.

Received in Registry 17th Jan.
1939.

W : Refugees.

Jewish refugee problem in Shanghai.

Ask that Jewish organisations in London may be informed in the sense of paragraph 1 of the telegram under reference and their attention called to the urgent need of relief. Trusts that the action taken by His Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Rome and Prague will not prove (?) ineffective.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

(W 483.)

References.

Shanghai
Consulate
Genl. Sec.
to Ambassador
W 483.
(Print.)

See W 519 and minutes
thereon.

F.F.
✓
Contr. 1/3 } Defits.

C.H. Johnston.

18. i.

MR.

9/1

(How disposed of.)

Copy:-
C.O.
G.O.
Specs.
Sir H. Johnston
Mr. Brooks
for W 519
Jan 20.

(Action
completed)

(Index.)

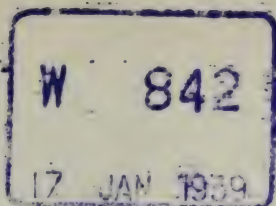
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2/10/39

Next Paper.

W 1012

17205 5/38 F.O.P.



17

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai)
16th January, 1939.

D. By W/T. 16th January, 1939.

R. 2.45 p.m. 16th January, 1939.

No. 29 (R).

vvvvvvvv

Shanghai Consulate General telegram No.12 to me.

May I ask that Jewish organizations in London may be informed in the sense of paragraph 1 and their attention called to urgent need of relief. I also hope that action taken by His Majesty's Representatives Berlin, Rome and Prague [grp.omitted] ineffective.

Addressed to Foreign Office No.29 January 16th;
repeated to Commander-in-Chief Saving.

17 JAN 1939

REFUGEES

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No.1 of 3rd January (W 17001/104/48).

A circular was addressed to British consular officers in Germany informing them of the position in Shanghai and instructing them to warn local Jewish organisations and local steamship companies and agencies. It was not considered that the German authorities could usefully be approached in the matter.

Encloses copies of replies from His Majesty's consular officers at Hamburg and Bremen together with copy of a minute by the Passport Control Officer.

Registry } W 1017/519/48
Number }

FROM Sir G. Ogilvie
Forbes, Berlin.

No. (22/30/39)

Dated 17th Jan: 1939

Received } 19th Jan:
in Registry } 1939

W: Refugees.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

Mr. 15th Feb. } Depos.
 Central 3

C. H. Johnston

23. j

(Print.)

Copy C. O.
D. O.

Treasury
Mr. Brooks (Treasury)

✓ substance to
Sir H. Emerson.

Ans R
23/1

I have given the substance to

Lord Duncannon.

C.H.S.

23.i

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Completed.)
m/3

24/3.

Next Paper.

W. 1207.

17652 8/38 F.O.P.

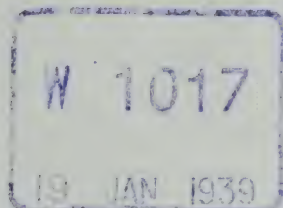
Dec 11/65/45/48

No. 65.
(22/30/39)

British Embassy,

Berlin,

17th January, 1939.



My Lord,

I have the honour to report that on receipt of your telegram No. 1 of January 3rd regarding the influx of Jewish refugees into Shanghai, I addressed a circular to British consular officers in Germany informing them of the position and instructing them where possible to warn local Jewish organisations and also, at their discretion, local steamship companies or agencies of the situation. I also requested His Majesty's Consular Representatives in Bremen and Hamburg to report, if possible, the number of refugees sailing for the Far East from German ports in their consular districts. I did not, however, consider that it would serve any useful purpose to approach the German authorities in the matter.

2. I now have the honour to forward herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Mr. Robinson and Mr. Wildman and also a copy of a minute which has been addressed to me by the Passport Control Officer.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble Servant,

Ernest R. Hills

The Right Honourable

The Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

etc., etc., etc.,

British Consulate-General, 20

No. 1.

HAMBURG,

(26)

10th January, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your circular
No. 1 Saving, of the 5th January, 1939.

2. As far as I can ascertain British Shipping Lines
are not booking Jews to Shanghai, unless they have a
visa for China, which they inform me is only granted
if the applicant is either going to be maintained by
a relative, or has a job to which he can go, or is in
possession of the equivalent of 5,000 Marks in
foreign exchange.

3. The Canadian Pacific Railroad have now ceased
altogether to take passengers for China, and the
General Steam Navigation Co., acting as agents for
the P & O., have only 70 names on their books, of
which 60 have visas. It, therefore, seems that most
of these passengers are being taken by the Nord
Deutsche Lloyd and by the Italian line.

4. I understand that the Nord Deutsche Lloyd are
booked up in all classes until the end of July. Most
of these passengers come from Frankfort, Breslau and
Berlin, and a deposit is taken from them to cover the
cost of their return fare should they not be allowed
to land. If they are allowed to land at Shanghai,
the deposit is paid into a blocked account in Germany.
The Nord Deutsche Lloyd is not interested in what
becomes of passengers after they have landed in the
Far East.

/The

Sir George Ogilvie-Forbes, K.C.M.G.,

British Embassy,

BERLIN.

5. The Lloyd Triestino is full in the first class till the end of May, and in the second class till the end of June or middle of July. The vast majority of these passengers come from Berlin, which also makes bookings for Vienna and Austria in general.
6. It has not been possible to obtain exact figures as to the number of refugees leaving this port.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

L. M. Robinson.

WB

No.1.
(26/7/39)

British Consulate,

BRESEN,

22

10th January, 1939.

Last number in 1938

was No.59 of 15.12.38.

Sir,

With reference to your circular
Havigram No.1 of the 5th instant, I have the
honour to report that Herr Frankl, who is the
local agent of the Rotterdamscher Lloyd, informs
me that, up to now, he has booked about 12 passages
for Jews proceeding to Shanghai.

2. He states that most of the passengers
join the steamers in Naples where they are
transhipped to steamers of the British Orient Line,
which takes them to Shanghai.

3. The North German Lloyd, Bremen, with whom
I spoke on the telephone, informs me that hitherto
they have booked about 30 such passages.

4. Another company which, according to
Herr Frankl, is booking passengers for Shanghai, is
the Japanese Line, Nippon Yusen Kaisha, sailing
from Hamburg, about whose bookings I am unable to
obtain any information here in Bremen.

I have the Honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

[Edo] 1/11/39

The British Chargé d'Affaires,
British Embassy,
BERLIN, W.8.

We in this office have warned Jews and Jewish organisations here of the danger of proceeding to Shanghai. They refuse to listen to us and say that Shanghai under any conditions is infinitely better than a Concentration Camp in Germany. One can perhaps understand their point of view.

2. We refuse to grant a visa via British ports en route to Shanghai unless the passport of the refugee bears a Chinese visa for China. The Chinese authorities here grant visas only in exceptional circumstances, but Chinese consulates in other countries (U.K. for instance) are granting them apparently easily. We refuse visas with a triple purpose (a) to prevent refugees from overflowing into Singapore, Hong Kong etc.; (b) to try to make their adventure impossible; (c) to confine them to German and Italian ships and therefore territory.

3. A similar movement is taking place to Siam. Germans do not require visas for Siam; Poles do, and the Siamese grant them visas without difficulty. I am at a loss to see how these unfortunate people will be able to live in Siam.

4. An effective preventive control can be only in Shanghai. It is useless to talk to the German Government whose declared object is to destroy these people body and soul; it makes no difference to them whether destruction takes place in Germany or in Shanghai. I rather think preference would be given to the Far East as their shipping companies are paid for the freight. One has to remember that the declared wish of the N.S.D.A.P. is that Jews should "verrecken". If they have to "verrecken", it is of minor importance to the Party where the process takes place, but it might be considered humane on our part not to interfere officially to prevent the Jews from choosing their own graveyards. They would rather die as free men in Shanghai than as slaves in Dachau. The people....

people who sail for Shanghai have usually been warned to leave Germany within a few weeks or enter or return to a Concentration Camp. They know the horrors of a Concentration Camp, but remain hopeful about Shanghai in spite of warnings.

5. I have warned the Hilfsverein again.

6. It is not possible for me to report the number of refugees proceeding from German and Italian ports, but I am of opinion that the movement will continue to the utmost capacity of ships sailing east.

(sgd) F. FOLEY.

5

W

W 1207
25
23 JAN 1939

1939

REFUGEES

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No.1. of 3rd January (W 17001/104/98).

Transmits copy of a letter from Madame Schmolka, Hicem, Prague, describing the action taken by her organisation to warn Jewish refugees against proceeding to Shanghai.

Registry Number } W 1207/519/48.

FROM Mr. Newton.
(Prague).

28 (24/21/39).

No. 19th Jan: 1939.

Dated

Received } 23rd Jan:
in Registry } 1939.

W: Refugees.

Last Paper.

W 1017.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

copy
Co.
Do.
in. Kroos.
on W 1208.
Jan 26
copy Shanghai
1/5/39 on W 1208

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Jan 18/39

per 17

Next Paper.

W 1208

(Minutes.)

I will tell Sir H. Emerson's
office about this. A.W.G.K.
25/1

7. 8. ✓ P.C.H.H.
Sept 27/1.

C.H. I.O.

D.O.

M. Perodys, Treasury.

No. 28.
(24/21/39).

Mr Gc

HIS Majesty's **Chargé d'Affaires** at **PRAGUE** **26 JAN 1939**
presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

to 2

British...Legation.....

.....PRAGUE..

.....
19th January..., 1939.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Foreign Office telegram No. 1 of January 3rd.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Madame Schmolka, 16th January, 1939.	Jewish refugees in Shanghai.



27

Copy of a letter dated 16th January, 1939.

From Madame Schmolka, Hicem, Jáchymova 3-III, Praha V.

To His Excellency Basil Newton, British Legation, Prague III.

Re: Jewish Refugees in Shanghai.

Your Excellency,

I thank you very much for your kind letter of the 12th instant describing the really tragic and ominous situation of the Jewish refugees from Central Europe at Shanghai.

As we are well aware of the fact that there are no prospects for poor destitute Jewish refugees at Shanghai and that they are condemned there to misery, we do not, of course, organize these transports. Nevertheless we pass on your report to all world refugee organizations, as well as to the Travelling Offices Čedok etc., and publish a notice about it in the newspaper "Jewish News", in order to prevent further sending of Jewish Refugees to this country.

Thanking you once more for your kindness,
I remain, Your Excellency,

Sincerely yours,

(Sd) M. Schmolka

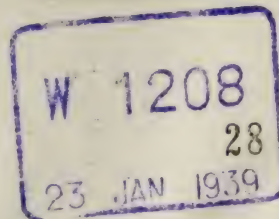
(Sd)

b.

W

1939

REFUGEES



Registry Number } W 1208/519/48.

FROM Lord Perth.
(Rome).

No. 56

Dated 21st Jan: 1939.

Received in Registry } 23rd Jan:
1939.

W: Refugees.

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 2. of January 3rd. (W 17001/164/98).

Describes the action taken to warn local Jewish organisations to do what they could to deter refugees from proceeding to Shanghai. An approach was also made to tourist agencies and steamship companies through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Gives substance of reports from His Majesty's Consular Officers at Genoa, Trieste and Palermo.

Last Paper.

W 1204.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

14 } Co.
50.

copy Mr. Brooks

W 1204
Jan 26

copy Shanghai
W 1515

(Action completed.)

Jan 27/2

(Index.)

pl 13/3

Next Paper.

W 1515

(Minutes.)

2-10-39

It looks as if Italy is the immediate source of the unwanted Jews in Shanghai, but all the action we can take has been taken now. But as long as it is possible to get into Shanghai without a visa, the attraction will prove irresistible for many Jews who can just afford the fare. Perhaps we might now briefly describe to Com. Genl., Shanghai what has been done.

J.W.-R.

25/1

Ctr C. 6

D.O.

Mr. Brooks, Treasury

J. E. Dep
27/1

4c ~~25~~
No. 56

W 1208
29
27 JAN 1939
British Embassy,

(
ROME.

21st January, 1939.

My Lord,

I have the honour to inform you that on receipt of your telegram No.2 of January 3rd, regarding the difficult position which has arisen in Shanghai owing to the influx of Jewish refugees, I instructed His Majesty's Consular officers at the principal Italian ports to warn the local Jewish organisations and to take any action they properly could to deter refugees from setting out for Shanghai. The Committee of Assistance for Jewish Refugees at Rome, a Jewish organisation, were also requested both by letter and verbally to do what they could to deter further refugees from Italy from setting out for Shanghai, and the Ministry of Trade and Exchange were also asked semi-officially to take such action as they could in this direction.

2. I felt that it might be somewhat embarrassing for the Embassy to approach tourist agencies and steamship companies in Italy ~~direct~~, which are practically Government concerns, direct with a similar request, and after reflection I decided that the best way of attempting to enlist the co-operation of steamship companies would be by means of an unofficial approach through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A member of my staff accordingly saw the competent official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on January 19th, and after explaining the position to him asked whether it would be possible for the Ministry to request Italian steamship companies to take what steps they could to deter further

Jewish/

The Right Hon.
Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.E.,
etc., etc., etc.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.



- 2 -

Jewish refugees from setting out from Italy for Shanghai. The official concerned was decidedly non-comittal towards this approach, but undertook to look into the matter and see if anything could be done.

3. As regards the numbers of refugees sailing for the Far East from Italian ports, I instructed H.M. Consular officers at the leading Italian ports to make enquiries and report by telegram. So far I have heard from H.M. Consul-General at Genoa that from the enquiries he has made it would appear that some 450 Jews, mostly German, are leaving Genoa for the Far East each month, and similarly from Trieste. H.M. Consul at Palermo reports that one refugee has applied to him for a visa for Singapore, and that his case had been referred to London for instructions.

I have the honour to be, with great truth and respect

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant

For the Ambassador.
Arthur Jenkins.

4.

1939

W

W 1515
31
27 JAN 1939

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Refer to Foreign Office letter of 20th January (W 519/519/48). Point out that the immigration of Jews to Shanghai is not now assisted or promoted by Jewish organisations but is pressed by the German police authorities. Request that His Majesty's Ambassador in China be informed that the Council will be unable to maintain payments for relief of refugees in Shanghai.

Registry W 1515/519/48
Number
FROM The Council for German Jewry

NoNB/DLM.

Dated 26th Jan. 1939.
Received in Registry 27th Jan. 1939.

W: Refugees.

Last Paper.

W 1208

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Shanghai
No 44 Feb. 1
H. G. Trade
Id 3
Dr. Kerschich
Id 3
Mr. Brooks
14/10
Co.
J. J. J. J. J.
(Action completed)
gm 15/3
PC 1/1

(Minutes.)

Please see minutes on W 1208.

I think there is perhaps one more step we might take, namely to ask the B/i to get British shipping co's to refrain from booking refugees for Shanghai. It is true that W 1017, 1st enclosure, suggests that most British co's are already aware of the situation, but I think it wd be as well to make sure that they all are. I therefore submit a draft to the B/i & a draft tel to Shanghai. I think we might also send under P. L. to Shanghai copies of W 1017, W 1207, W 1208, & W 405/45/48 W 519 out to the Council for German Jewry & W 1515 in.

Far Eastern Dept. for
Passport Control Dept. 11.1.28/2
16757 338 F.O.P.

RR Reilly
20/1

Next Paper.

W 1540

10 } Shang, hai
No. 11 Feb 3
with W1017, W1204,
W1208, W405,
W519 (ent).

TELEPHONES: EUSTON { 3925.
3926.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
INLAND: "MIGRATE, KINCROSS, LONDON."
CABLEGRAMS: "MIGRATE, LONDON."

9C
THE COUNCIL FOR GERMAN JEWRY

32

CHAIRMAN:
THE RT. HON. VISCOUNT SAMUEL.
P.C., G.C.B., G.B.E.

JOINT SECRETARIES:
L. BAKSTANSKY, LL.B., B.SC.(ECON.).
M. STEPHANY, F.L.A.A.

W 1515
27 JAN 1939

NB/DLM

WOBURN HOUSE,
UPPER WOBURN PLACE,
LONDON, W.C.1.

26th January, 1939.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

Sir,

Your letter of the 20th January, No. W 519/519/48, regarding the position of destitute refugees from Germany at Shanghai was considered at a meeting of the Council for German Jewry. I am asked to point out that the immigration of refugees to Shanghai is not now promoted or assisted by the Jewish organisations, but is pressed by the German police authorities (the Gestapo) on individuals who are released from the concentration camps on condition that they emigrate immediately, or threatened with arrest unless they so emigrate. So long as no system of passport inspection or immigration control is established in Shanghai, it is likely that the process will continue, and refugees will arrive without any means of subsistence or any prospect of absorption.

At the same time it is impossible for the Council for German Jewry, in view of its existing and prospective liabilities in England and Europe, to continue to appropriate moneys for assistance of destitute

- 2 -

26th January, 1939.

refugees in Shanghai. The Council has during the last two months voted the sum of £6,000 for that purpose, and the American Jewish body associated with it has likewise appropriated £6,000. These sums, however, will only last a short time for the existing pool of refugees, and for a shorter time if the pool grows. The Council asks that it should be made clear to His Majesty's Ambassador in China that the Council, while using its efforts to deter refugees from going to Shanghai, will be unable to maintain payments for relief.

Yours faithfully
Norman Bentwich

NORMAN BENTWICH.

(W 1515/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Sir H. Clark Kerr (Shanghai),
Foreign Office, 1st February, 1939. 2.30 p.m.
No. 77. (R).

Your telegram No. 29 [of the 16th January: Jewish refugees in Shanghai].

Voluntary organisations in London have again been asked to do everything possible to deter refugees from going to Shanghai, and have promised to do so. His Majesty's Representatives in Berlin, Rome and Prague have approached voluntary organisations in countries concerned, and His Majesty's Embassy at Rome have also approached Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs unofficially with same object. Director of Inter-Governmental Committee has been asked to try in his present discussions with German Government to persuade latter to stop destitute refugees from going to the Far East on German ships. I fear that nothing more can usefully be done to stop flow of refugees to Shanghai, which seems bound to continue as long as there is no effective immigration control there.

2. Council for German Jewry states that in view of its existing and prospective liabilities in Europe, it cannot continue to appropriate funds for relief in Shanghai. During last two months Council has voted \$6,000 for that purpose, and American Jewish body has voted like sum. Council asks that it should be made clear that, while using its efforts to deter refugees from going to Shanghai, it cannot maintain payments for relief.

MIT CUB

8 ✓

13
35

W 1515/519/48.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

3rd February, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to inform you that His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai recently reported that a very serious situation had arisen there, owing to an influx of destitute Jewish refugees from Central Europe. His Majesty's Consul-General therefore requested that all possible action should be taken to deter further refugees from setting out for Shanghai. I am to enclose a copy of a telegram which was accordingly addressed to His Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Rome and Prague, together with copies of their replies, reporting the action which they had felt able to take. Copies of correspondence exchanged with the Council for German Jewry, and of a telegram which is being addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Shanghai, are also enclosed for the Board's information.

2. It would appear from the first enclosure to the despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin No. 65 of the 17th January that, British shipping companies are not booking refugees to Shanghai unless they have adequate resources. It will however be observed that in the despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bremen, which forms the second enclosure to the despatch from His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin of the 17th January, it is stated that a certain number of refugees are being
taken

The Secretary

to the Board of Trade.

taken to Shanghai from Naples in ships of the Orient line. It seems possible that this may be a mistake. Lord Halifax considers however that everything possible should be done to prevent further destitute refugees from going to Shanghai. I am therefore to suggest that if the Board see no objection, the attention of British shipping companies taking passengers to the Far East should be drawn to the serious situation of the refugees now at Shanghai, and that the Companies concerned should be requested not to book refugees from Central Europe for the Far East unless they are satisfied that the refugees in question possess resources adequate to ensure that they will be able to maintain themselves without relief from other sources.

3. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Treasury, the Colonial Office, Dominions Office and to Lord Winterton.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) WALTER ROBERTS.

OUT FILE

37

W 1515/519/48

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

3rd February, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to acknowledge the receipt of your letter (reference HB/DLM) of the 36th January regarding the position of destitute refugees from Germany at Shanghai.

2. The contents of the second paragraph of your letter are being communicated to His Majesty's Ambassador at Shanghai by telegraph.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd.) WALTER ROBERTS.

Norman Bentwich, Esq.,
The Council for German Jewry,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place,
W.C.1.

8.

1939

W

REFUGEES

W 1540

38

27 JAN 1939

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Registry Number } W 1540/519/48

FROM Lord Perth
(Rome)

No. 58 (13/36/39)

Dated 21st Jan. 1939.

Received }
in Registry 27th Jan. 1939.

W: Refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 33 of 19th January (W 519/519/48). Transmits copy of a letter addressed to the Jewish Committee of Assistance in Rome warning them of the present situation in Shanghai and suggesting that every effort should be made to deter further refugees from proceeding to Shanghai.

Last Paper.

W 1515.

References.

2 papers (Minutes.) FE 62/14

see minutes on W 1515

OR

30/1

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

4m 18/2

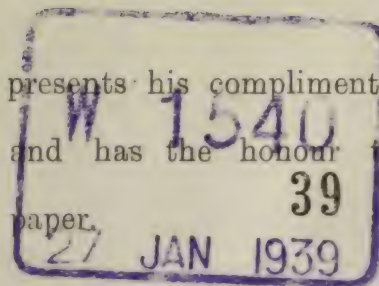
18/2

Next Paper.

W 1844

(13/36/39)

HIS Majesty's Representative at Rome presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and has the honour to transmit herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.



British Embassy,

Rome,

21st January , 1939.

Reference to previous despatch :

From Foreign Office : **Telegram No.33 of January 19th, 1939**
~~Tx~~

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To: Jewish Committee of Assistance 20th January, 1939	Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

COPY

British Embassy

40

13/36/39

ROME.

20th January, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from this Embassy of the 6th instant regarding the situation in Shanghai, I am directed by His Majesty's Ambassador to inform you that, according to a report which has been received from His Majesty's Consul General at Shanghai, local relief organisations have no more funds in hand and from the present week onwards will be not only unable to provide for any new refugees, but will not even be able to provide for those already in Shanghai.

In view of this situation it would seem desirable that every possible effort should be made to deter further refugees, in their own interests, from setting out from Italy for Shanghai.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(SD) P. DIXON.

Ill.mo Segretario
Comitato di Assistenza per gli Ebrei Profughi
dall'Estero,
Lungotevere Sansio 9,
R O M E.

9.

W

W 1874

41

2 FEB 1939

1939

REFUGEES

Registry
Number } W 1874/519/48FROM Sir G. Ogilvie-
Forbes, Berlin.

No. 119 (22/43/39)

Dated 28th Jan: 1939

Received
in Registry } 2nd Feb: 1939

W: Refugees.

Entry of Jewish refugees from Germany into Shanghai.

Transmits copy of a despatch from His Majesty's
Consul-General, Hamburg, informing that he conveyed
a warning about Shanghai to the local Jewish Relief
Organisation but that the director stated that in
view of present circumstances, he had no way of
preventing his compatriots from sailing to Shanghai.
Some disembarked at Alexandretta where conditions
were even worse.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

W 1874.
Reser
no. 65
Jan 19.
W 1014.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Copy C.O.
H.O. on
W 2061

We can only hope that Mr Radlee may
have achieved something

AB Sept 1936
Central Dept
East Dept
12/3

DPR-ly

3/2

Cty H.O.
✓ C.O.

JWR.
4/2

(Action
completed.)

Gm 16/3

(Index.)

PC 1/3

Next Paper.

W 2061.

18329 12/38 F.O.P.

No. 119 (22/43/39)

W 1874

42

HIS Majesty's **Chargé d'Affaires** ^{at} Berlin
presents his compliments to **H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy,.....

Berlin......

.....
28th January,...., 1939

Reference to previous correspondence :

Berlin despatch No. 65 of January 17th (22/30/39)

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From British Consulate- General, Hamburg. 25th January, 1939.	Refugees.

No. 6
(26)

British Consulate-General,
HAMBURG,
25th January, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your Circular telegram No. 3 of the 20th January, 1939, and to report that I have conveyed the warning to the Jewish Relief Organisation in Hamburg. The head of the Jewish Relief Organisation informed me that he had no way of preventing his compatriots from sailing to Shanghai.

2. People who followed this course were for the most part those who had been released from concentration camps on the condition that they must leave Germany by a specified date. They had no chance of going anywhere else since they were unable to find guarantors. They were therefore forced to try to go to Shanghai in spite of any warning. He stated that some of these refugees were proceeding to Alexandria where they could land without a visa and where the conditions were possibly even worse than Shanghai.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

(sgd) S. ROBINSON.

Sir G. Ogilvie-Forbes,
British Embassy,
Berlin.

10

W

1939

REFUGEES

2061

44

FEB 1939

Immigration of Jewish refugees into Shanghai.Registry
Number 2061/519/48TELEGRAM FROM
Sir H. Phillips
(Shanghai)No. 23 (R)
4th Feb. 1939Date
Received
in Registry } 6th Feb. 1939

W: Refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 44 to His Majesty's Consul-General, Shanghai, of 19th January (W 519/519/48). All Consuls, including the German and Italian Consuls, in Shanghai have agreed to make representations to their respective Governments stressing the unfavourable conditions prevailing in Shanghai and the impossibility of refugees gaining a livelihood there.

(Repeated to Commander-in-Chief No. 7.
Copy to Major General).

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

W 18/4/4

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

* Tel. Rome 12 Sao.
Berlin 9 Sao.

11 Feb

14. H.O. with W 18/4/4
(Corres) C.O.
✓ Treas (u.c. R Brood)

Feb 14

* Repeated Shanghai C.O.
(unnum)

Feb 17.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

fm 18/2

RC 6/9.

Next Paper.

11/2235-

Mr Rullee did mention this in his talks with Mr Lohdhat. The latter promised to look into the position, of which he said he was not aware. I think that seeing that the German & Italian Joint Coms have reported to their Govts against allowing further refugees to go to Shanghai, we might now ask the RR at Berlin & Rome to approach the German & Italian Govts unofficially, & referring to this meeting of the Consular body in Shanghai, ask them to stop refugees going there in German & Italian ships. Mr Ogilvie-Forbes might also refer to Mr Rullee's talks & the German Govt's desire, revealed in the agreed memorandum, to promote an orderly migration.

I don't if publicity as suggested in the third para. is much good. The Jewish organisations

17208 5/38 F.O.P.

organisations know the position well enough,
but those in Germany told Mr. Reilly frankly that they
would do nothing to stop Jews going to the Far East.
It was better that they should starve there than
be beaten to death in Germany

Mr. Reilly

6/2.

For Eastern
12.9/14
Get the
Southern
10/12

I agree with Mr. Reilly -

but would like Sir G. Ogilvie Forbes
to make sep^{ns} concerted with
his U. S. Colleagues.

JWSR

7/11

W 2061

6 FEB 1939

45

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decode. Sir H. Phillips (Shanghai).
4th February, 1939.

D. W/T 4th February, 1939.

R. 4th February, 1939.

No. 23 (R).

MINIMUM

Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Shanghai,
telegram No. 27 of February 4.

Foreign Office telegram No. 44 to you. 20-500/510/44

Full Consular Body meeting of January 27 discussed
letters from Shanghai Municipal Council requesting Consulates
to take suitable steps to prevent further incursions of Jewish
refugees into Shanghai.

2. All Consuls including my German colleague and my
Italian colleague were unanimous in agreeing to make
representations to their respective Governments stressing
unfavourable conditions prevailing in Shanghai and virtual
impossibility of these refugees gaining a livelihood here.
Unemployment at Shanghai which was already acute has been
seriously aggravated by the advent of these refugees.

3. Funds in the hands of relief Committee are practically
exhausted with little prospect of replenishment. It was
hoped that various Governments would do everything possible to
discourage persons of little or no means from emigrating to
Shanghai by means of publicity in press and through the
medium of posters in various ports and railway stations and
shipping offices.

Repeated to Foreign Office telegram No. 23, Commander-in-
Chief telegram No. 7. Copy to Major General.

(W 2061/519/48

Teleg

No. 12
9

To see telegram - please

*① Far Eastern Dept.
✓ Mr. Sco #14/2*

② Central Dept.

Communications Dept

*See minute on
telegram within*

*Mr. Sco #14/2
McReilly
17/2*

DISTRIBUTION.

th (Rome),
n (Berlin),

39. 11.30 a.m.

Your despatch No. 58.
Your despatch No. 119.

His Majesty's Consul-General reports that whole Consular body in Shanghai, including German and Italian consuls, have agreed to make representations to their Governments emphasising extremely unfavourable condition of refugees in Shanghai and impossibility of their gaining livelihood.

It is urgently necessary that stream of destitute refugees to Shanghai should be stopped and representations have been made to all shipping companies likely to be concerned. Unless you see any objection you should make unofficial approach to Italian authorities and referring to meeting of Consular body German emphasise desirability, not only in interests of refugees but of whole European community in Shanghai, of discouraging further emigration to Shanghai of persons with little or no means.

It would be an advantage if your United States colleague could make similar démarche.

To Berlin only. Question was raised by Mr. Rublee with Doctor Wohltat, who promised to look into it.

Referred to Consul General Shanghai Savings

47
48
OUT FILE
(W 2061/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) to The Earl of Perth (Rome),
Sir N. Henderson (Berlin),

Foreign Office, 11th February, 1939. 11.30 a.m.

No. 12 SAVING. BY BAG.
9 SAVING.

Your despatch No. 58.
Your despatch No. 119.

His Majesty's Consul-General reports that whole Consular body in Shanghai, including German and Italian consuls, have agreed to make representations to their Governments emphasising extremely unfavourable condition of refugees in Shanghai and impossibility of their gaining livelihood.

It is urgently necessary that stream of destitute refugees to Shanghai should be stopped and representations have been made to all shipping companies likely to be concerned. Unless you see any objection you should make unofficial approach to Italian authorities and referring to meeting of Consular body German emphasise desirability, not only in interests of refugees but of whole European community in Shanghai, of discouraging further emigration to Shanghai of persons with little or no means.

It would be an advantage if your United States colleague could make similar démarche.

To Berlin only. Question was raised by Mr. Rublee with Doctor Wohltat, who promised to look into it.

Referred to Consul General Shanghai Saving -

11.

W

W 2235
48

1939

REFUGEES

8 FEB 1939

Registry
Number W 2235/519/48FROM Sir Archibald
Clark Kerr. (Shanghai)
No 64 (5/117A/1939)

Dated 20th Jan. 1939.

Received } 8th Feb.
in Registry } 1939.

W: Refugees

Jewish refugee question at Shanghai.

Transmits copy of a despatch from His Majesty's
Consul General at Shanghai enclosing copy of a letter
from the British Chamber of Commerce and China
Association Committee drawing attention to the
serious situation in Shanghai and asking that His
Majesty's Ambassador will take urgent action in the
matter.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

W 2061

See v2061 minutes
thereon

References.

Shanghai
(c.g.) tel. No. 9
Jan 14.
W 483.

ORR

8/2

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

m 18/2

RC 13/3

Next Paper.

W 3341

18329 12/38 F.O.I.

No. 64 (5/117A/1939)

W 2235

8 FEB 1939

AIR MAIL

49

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Shanghai
presents his compliments to H.M. Principal Secretary of State for
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.
Foreign Affairs

British Embassy,

Shanghai,

20th January, 1939.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Shanghai Consul General's telegram to Foreign Office No. 9 dated
14th January 1939.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch from H.M. Consul General Shanghai No. 23 dated 17th January 1939.	JEWISH REFUGEE QUESTION AT SHANGHAI.

(COPY)

British Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

50

1 enclosure
Number 23
(and 3 copies)

January 17th 1939.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No.12 marked "Important" of January 14th on the subject of the Jewish refugees, and my previous telegrams on the same subject, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by the Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce and China Association Committee in Shanghai.

2. In view of the serious nature of this problem, of which I have kept you fully informed, I am in no way surprised that the Joint Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the China Association are requesting Your Excellency to take up this question with the authorities concerned.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble servant,

(Sd) Herbert Phillips

Consul-General.

His Majesty's Ambassador,
British Embassy,
SHANGHAI.

From the Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce and
China Association Committee, Shanghai, to H.B.M.
Consul-General, Shanghai.

16th January 1939

Sir,

My Committee is seriously concerned regarding the influx into Shanghai of Jewish refugees from Germany and Italy, it being understood that some 1,500 have already arrived and that by the end of May the total number will probably amount to, if not exceed, 5,000.

Though some of the refugees are provided with adequate funds, many of them will have to be provided for by the local community, which, as you are aware, has during the past eighteen months been obliged to meet extraordinary calls on its generosity at a time when its income has been seriously curtailed, and it is felt that this very large influx will place a burden on the community which it will be unable to bear, it being recognized that the Jewish community, though small, has already contributed generously.

Furthermore, as the foreign labour market is already overcrowded, it is certain that the large number of refugees, who have already arrived or whose arrival is anticipated, cannot be absorbed, and that consequently a serious unemployment situation is liable to be created, which will quite possibly lead to disorder arising from the discharge of men already employed in favour of cheaper refugee labour.

My Committee realize that little or nothing can be done in Shanghai to meet the situation beyond

/voluntary

voluntary contribution to the funds, and it is difficult to suggest any steps that might be taken as no steps could become effective without the active co-operation of Germany and Italy, which alone have the power to prevent or restrict the sale to such refugees of passage tickets to Shanghai by German or Italian ships.

In view, however, of the seriousness of the situation it is hoped that you will draw the attention of H.M. Ambassador to the position and its possibilities and request that urgent representations be made to the appropriate authorities with a view to controlling the situation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) R. Calder Marshall
Chairman.

1939

W
REFUGEES

W 3341

53

24 FEB 1939

Registry
Number } W 3341/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM

Sir N. Henderson,
Berlin.77 Saving
(en clair).
23rd Feb. 1939.Received
in Registry } 24th Feb.
1939.

W : Refugees.

Immigration of Jewish refugees from Germany into Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 9 Saving of 11th February (W 2061/519/48). Ministry of Foreign Affairs state that report of Shanghai Consular Body Meeting has been received and point out that they have no control over ultimate destination of Jews leaving Germany. They have however warned internal authorities in Germany and shipping companies. United States Charge has been informed of these representations and will inform His Majesty's Embassy if he receives instructions to make similar approach.

Last Paper.

W 2235

References.

(Print.)

(Note disposed of.)

Y. B. T. Feb 24.

H.O.
C.O.
D.O.
Mr Brooks (inner)
✓ Inner. Feb 27.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

In 28/2 Re 6/9.

Next Paper.

W 3720

(Minutes.)

Cofy to B. J. T. immediate
H.O.

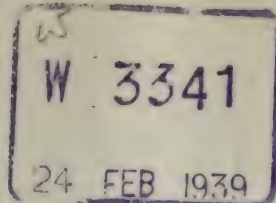
Mr Brooks

✓ C. O. Brooks. D. O.

7. E. Dept.

Central Dept 1/3.

Jus K.
27/2



54

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) from Sir N. Henderson (Berlin).

D. 23rd February, 1939.

R. 24th February, 1939.

No. 77. (Saving). BY BAG.

.....

Your telegram Saving No. 9.

15-2-61/579/48
Ministry of Foreign Affairs state that they have received from German Consul-General report of Consular Body meeting. They point out that it is quite impossible for them to control ultimate destination of numerous Jews leaving Germany. They have nowever warned the internal authorities here and German shipping companies of the state of affairs.

United States Chargé d'Affaires has been informed of the result of these unofficial representations and will let us know if or when he received any instructions to make similar approach.

1939

W

W 3720

55

3 MAR 1939

REFUGEES

Registry Number } W 3720/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Sir N. Henderson
(Berlin)

No. 77 Decypher

Dated 2nd March: 1939

Received 3rd March:
by Registry } 1939

W: Refugees.

Immigration of Jewish refugees from Germany into Shanghai.

Refers to Berlin telegram No. 77 Saving of 23rd February (W 3341/519/48).

United States Charge d'Affaires informed His Majesty's Embassy on 2nd March that he had on instructions from his Government made similar approach to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and had received the same reply.

Last Paper.

W 3341

(Minutes.)

References.

The whole subject of indiscriminate emigration is now to be taken up by Mr Bell & we have asked Mr Henderson to report on the possibility of further steps to get the German Govt to stop it.

Far Eastern }
Central }
Dept

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

14. B of T
H.O.
C.O.
D.O.

P. H. Brooks (Treas)
Mack.

usual distribution

M'Reilly
3/3

ANSR.
3/3

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Ans 3 RC 6/10

Next Paper.

W 4253

15
W 3720

56

3 MAR 1939

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. Sir N. Henderson (Berlin).
2nd March, 1939.

D. 6.30 p.m., 2nd March, 1939.

R. 6.30 p.m., 2nd March, 1939.

No. 77.

.....

My telegram No. 77 Saving.

United States Chargé d'Affaires informed His Majesty's
Embassy this morning that he had on instructions from his
Government made similar approach to Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and had received the same reply.

1939

W

W 4253

57

13 MAR 1939

REFUGEES

Registry Number W 4253/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Earl of Perth (Rome)No 66 Saving
en clair
Date 6th Mar. 1939.Received
in Registry 13th Mar. 1939.

W: Refugees.

Position of refugees at Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 12 Saving of 11th February (W 2061/519/48).

As United States Ambassador has received no instructions Counsellor has taken up question with head of Department concerned who stated that a report on position of refugees at Shanghai had been received from the Italian Consul, that Italian Government are doing everything they can not to aggravate the situation and that few, if any, refugees had sailed recently in Italian vessels either to Shanghai or elsewhere.
(Repeated Shanghai).

Last Paper.

W 3720

References.

W 2492/551/48

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

14. B of T.
Apr 17(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

4/28/3 pc 6/9.

Next Paper.

W. 5686.

(Minutes.)

Far Eastern Dept.

Southern Dept.

American Dept.

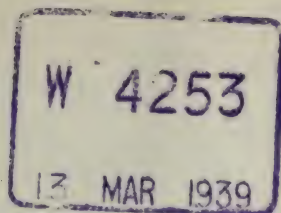
Central Dept.

Satisfactory - on paper at
least.

G. M. 17/3

JWSR.

17/3



58

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) from The Earl of Perth, (Rome).
March 6th, 1939.

D. March 8th, 1939.

R. March 11th, 1939.

No. 66. Saving.

-----oOo-----

By attach
Your telegram No. 12 Saving. *W 2061/519/48*

As my United States colleague has received no instructions Counsellor has taken up question with head of Department concerned who stated that a report on position of refugees at Shanghai had been received from the Italian Consul. Count Vitetti said that Italian Government are doing everything they can not to aggravate situation. He repeated (see my telegram No. 87 of February 10th) that strict orders had been given to Italian shipping agencies not to sell tickets to persons without satisfactory documents and he felt sure that few, if any, refugees had sailed recently in Italian vessels either to Shanghai or elsewhere.

Addressed to Foreign Office No. 66 Saving.

Repeated to Shanghai Saving.

MAR 1939
F.O. REGISTRY.

15

1939

W

REFUGEES

W 5686

59

6 APR 1939

Registry Number W 5686/519/48.

FROM Board of Trade.

No. M 4867/39.

Date 4th Apr. 1939.

Received in Registry 6th Apr. 1939.

W : Refugees.

Emigration to Shanghai of Jewish refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 3rd February (W 1515/519/48). Any step to restrict further the use of British vessels would need to be fully justified. Suggests that His Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Rome and Paris be asked to report whether refugee traffic is continuing in ships calling at German, Italian and French ports. Requests further information respecting the method in which British Consuls in Germany are dealing with applications for transit visas to United Kingdom en route to Shanghai and suggests that British steamship lines should be asked to notify all applicants for passage to Shanghai of the conditions there.

Last Paper.

W 4253

References.

W 3441

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Hb. Berlin no 946

Rome no 755

May 13

9th. Prof. (with 21 and

W 1001/104/48. 1938.

W 275/45/48.

W 4253) May 16

14. Hb. with out in

W 1515 to B. of T.

as W 5686 in 2 out

9. Shanghai (do)

no May 17

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

W 8638

(Minutes.)

This correspondence with the B/i is, I'm afraid, rather academic, since very few of the refugees are likely to go by British ships. The Board won't see that it is an important British interest to stop refugees going to Shanghai & aggravating the position there.

2) We have heard nothing from Shanghai since early in Feb (W 2061) & it is possible that the situation is more in hand. The latest reports from Berlin and Rome are in W 3341/48 & W 4253 (the latter rel shd go to the B/i). There wd be no harm in asking for a further report from Consuls in Italy & Germany.

3) The only information in Western papers about the practice of Consuls in Germany as regards transit visas for refugees going to China is in W 1017. Possibly next Dept or Passport Control Dept have more information.

We

④ We have been able to do a very little to stop the flow of refugees to China that I hardly think we could justify to HM Ambassador & Consul General at Shanghai or authorising Consuls to give transit visas as suggested in the last para but one of this letter. I think we must do the little that we can to check the flow - & in any case the loss to British lines is not likely to be serious.

⑤ I suppose we must agree to the communication to the shipping lines being watered down as suggested by the Board. They have sat on our letter for two months & in practice I don't suppose it will make much difference what we say to our shipping companies

Far Eastern Dept^{not to be}
Treaty Dept^{not to be}
Passport Control Dept^{not to be}

OR'Reilly
15/4

I agree with §4 above. It is a question involving conflict of interests, but to my mind it is far more important that the vast British interests should not be jeopardized than that British shipping coys. should be enabled to earn a few extra passenger fares, and the dumping of these refugees, mostly indigent, at S'hai adds a new & disturbing element to an already complicated problem.

As regards the communication to the
Shipping

Shipping companies, I don't see why we should not adhere to our original request (W1515/519/48). We obviously can't prevent the coys. taking refugees to Shanghai should they decide to ignore our request but we can at least refrain from facilitating their going to Shanghai. In this connexion I presume that the same procedure as regards transit visas via British ports holds good whether the applicant is travelling ~~via~~ on a British or on a German/Italian ship.

Sir J. Brennan

Ans Dec 19/4

I don't disagree, but I do not think it matters very much one way or the other

[Signature]
20/4

The Board of Trade seem to be taking an entirely departmental point of view of this question. No visa for Shanghai is necessary and applications for transit visas for the U.K. en route to Shanghai supported by evidence of a passage on from U.K. booked in Germany

(which

(which is not accepted) are not acceded to in the ordinary way by Consular and Passport Control Officers in Germany since there is no sort of guarantee that the refugees once here will be proceeding on to Shanghai. Extraordinary cases where maintenance in Shanghai is guaranteed, are dealt with by means of reference and specific authorisation.

I understand that the German Jewish Aid Committee have had to provide a considerable^{sum} of money towards the support of German refugees who have been dumped in Shanghai principally I believe by the German, Italian and Japanese Shipping Companies, and the Committee have asked the Home Office not to do anything which might have the effect of increasing the number of destitute refugees from Germany in Shanghai unless adequate arrangements have first been made for maintenance.

Personally, I think that the Home Office are fully justified in controlling in this manner the flow of doubtful immigrants via this country, and I think that that Department should be brought into this discussion in order that their view may be represented to the Board of Trade.

R. I. Parkin

25.4.39.

There/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

There is another consideration which deserves to be mentioned, although it does not concern our reply to the Board of Trade. Namely, that a great many refugees obtain visas for China and then proceed to Palestine. In view of this and the other considerations mentioned in preceding minutes I think we should maintain our attitude regarding the transit visas. I also agree that we should adhere to our original request regarding the representations to the British steam ship lines, adding that if of course these shipping companies choose to disregard the Board of Trade's communication that it is their affair but that we cannot accept any responsibility for adding to the already grave problem existing in Shanghai.

As a matter of fact I gathered from a conversation I had lately with the Director of the P. & O. Line that the chief British shipping companies do not feel very strongly about the matter, since their prospects of obtaining any substantial part of this refugee traffic are negligible. The same Company asked me what would be the sum a refugee should produce in order to be allowed to proceed to Shanghai in a regular way. I said, after consulting the Far Eastern Department, that in default of evidence that he would be entirely maintained on arrival in Shanghai it could be taken for granted that he must possess a capital sum bringing him in not less than £80 a year. The P. & O. Company implied that that would probably rule out all refugee traffic for them, but that in any case there was very little opportunity of their getting much.

A.W.G.R. 27th April 1939

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Draft reply.
OVER.

Minutes.

Draft to BOT
and Draft to Berlin and
Rome submitted.

G/M. 20/4.

MR

13/5

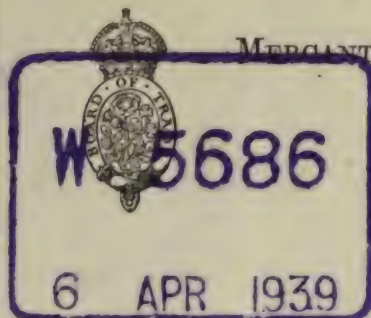
NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—

The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department
(address as opposite)

and the following number quoted:—

M.4867/39.



MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

4th April, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to refer to your letter (W 1515/519/48) of the 3rd February suggesting that British shipping companies should be requested not to book refugees from Central Europe for the Far East unless they are satisfied that the refugees possess resources adequate to ensure that they will be able to maintain themselves without relief from other sources.

2. The Board note from the enclosures to your letter that the German Line (Nord Deutsche Lloyd) was, early in January, booked up until the end of July; that the Italian Line (Lloyd Triestino) was booked up until the end of May (first class) or middle of July (second class); and that the Japanese Line (Nippon Yusen Kaisha) is booking passengers for Shanghai. On the other hand, the bookings by the British Lines seem to be very small, though this is no doubt due in part to the difficulties in the way of obtaining sterling to cover passenger moneys paid in

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

/Reichsmarks

Reichsmarks. In general, therefore, it would seem that German, Italian and possibly Japanese Lines are securing this particular class of emigrant business on a very large scale, whilst British Lines are securing only a small fraction; and the Board feel that any steps to restrict further the business of the British Lines, already handicapped in many ways in their competition with Lines of the other countries mentioned, would need to be fully justified. In the present instance, there is no indication whatever that the other Lines are restricting, or are intending to restrict, their service, as the Board do not feel that the action taken by the German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as reported by His Majesty's Representative at Berlin in his telegram No. 77 of 23rd February (F.O. reference W 3341/519/48), can be regarded as at all likely to induce the Nord Deutsche Lloyd to refuse passage to refugee Jews (cf. the

/fourth

fourth paragraph of the despatch No.1 of 10th January from H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg). If these companies continue to carry destitute refugees to Shanghai, the Board cannot see that the problem of the Shanghai authorities would be appreciably relieved, if relieved at all, by British companies refraining from the traffic.

3 The Board have been approached by the British shipping interests concerned, who have heard, through their agents in Germany, that, under instructions from Berlin, British Consuls in Germany are declining to issue transit visas for refugees desiring to travel to Shanghai via the United Kingdom. In this connection, the Board observe from the minute by the British Passport Control Officer in Berlin, which formed one of the enclosures to your letter, that visas via British ports en route to Shanghai are not being given to refugees unless their passports bear Chinese visas for China. The Board are not aware whether this ensures that the refugees to whom such visas are given possess sufficient resources to maintain themselves in Shanghai, but it seems possible that the arrangement has the result of diverting some refugees with adequate resources from British to foreign steamship lines. The Passport Control Officer's minute states in fact that one

/of

*Why? Presumably we
don't give transit visas
to passengers on German
ships.*

of the objects of refusing visas is to confine refugees "to German and Italian ships and, therefore, territory." The Board would suggest that H.M. Representatives in Berlin, Rome and Paris might be asked to report further on whether the refugee traffic is continuing in ships calling at German, Italian and French ports.

4 In order that they may inform the British shipping interests concerned of their present position and prospects in respect of this traffic, the Board would be glad to receive further information respecting the method in which British Consuls in Germany are dealing with applications by refugees for transit visas to this country en route to Shanghai; but, on their present information, they feel that, unless the German authorities and the Consuls in Germany of such countries as Italy and France are refusing to issue visas except to refugees with adequate means of supporting themselves, it would be difficult to justify the refusal by British Consuls of transit visas to refugees seeking to travel to Shanghai via this country, if the applicant, having been warned of the position in Shanghai, nevertheless persists in preferring that position to the one which he is seeking to escape.

I don't agree

/Similarly

5. Similarly, the Board are disposed to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State, that until such time as the other steamship lines concerned decide to refuse passage to refugees not possessing sufficient resources to maintain themselves, the communication to be made to the British steamship lines by this Department should not go beyond a request that they should notify all applicants for passage to Shanghai of the conditions prevailing there, leaving it open to the companies to accept bookings in their discretion if the refugees persist in their application.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. Carter

Registry

No: 45686/59/48

OUT FILE

65

13 May.

Draft.

Sir N Henderson

Berlin

NO 946

Sir P. Dornier

Rome

NO 755

I transmit to
YE herewith a copies
of corr^o with the Board
of Trade regarding
the influx of refugees
into Shanghai.

A.W.R.

Sir

With ref to last your

Lord Perth

tel no ~~pp~~ of the 2nd March

no 66 Saving of the 6th March

I shall be grateful if you
I have to request that you

will report any further informa-
tion which you can obtain
regarding the present extent of
the refugee traffic to the Far East
in German ships.

Staban

2. I am sending a
similar despatch to the Ambassador
at Rome

Berlin

A.W.G.R.

(S.M.) A. W. G. RANDALL

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

No. 946.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

66

(W 5686/519/48)

13th May, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to your telegram No. 77 of the 2nd March, I transmit to Your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence with the Board of Trade regarding the influx of refugees into Shanghai. I shall be grateful if you will report any further information which you can obtain regarding the present extent of the refugee traffic to the Far East in German ships.

2. I am sending a similar despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome.

I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sgd) A. W. G. RAWOALL

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir Neville Henderson, G.C.M.G.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Berlin.

OUT FILE

67

No. 755.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(W 5686/519/48)

13th May, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to Lord Perth's telegram No. 66
Saving of the 6th March, I transmit to Your Excellency
herewith copies of correspondence with the Board of Trade
regarding the influx of refugees into Shanghai. I shall
be grateful if you will report any further information
which you can obtain regarding the present extent of the
refugee traffic to the Far East in Italian ships.

2. I am sending a similar despatch to His Majesty's
Ambassador at Berlin.

I am, with great truth and respect,

Sir,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

(For the Secretary of State)

(Sgd.) A. W. G. RANDALL

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir Percy Lorraine, Bt., G.C.M.G.,

etc., etc., etc.,

Rome.

(W 5868/519/48)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

16th May, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Viscount Halifax to refer to the letter from the Board of Trade No. M 4867/39 of the 4th April regarding the influx of Jewish refugees from Central Europe into Shanghai.

2. Lord Halifax appreciates the force of the considerations advanced by the Board, nor would he dissent from their view that any action tending further to handicap British shipping lines in their competition with German and Italian lines, requires full justification. At the same time he is satisfied that the continued arrival of refugees in Shanghai, where they are now believed to number about 8,000, constitutes a real danger to British interests, for the reasons explained in the telegrams from His Majesty's Ambassador and Consul-General at Shanghai of which copies are enclosed. It will be seen that there is reason to fear that the situation may cause an outbreak of anti-semitism which might be exploited to embarrass the British authorities on the spot. It should be added that the British Council for German Jewry are being obliged to remit large sums to Shanghai for the relief of refugees, and have requested that all possible steps should be taken to restrict the number of destitute refugees proceeding to Shanghai. In the /circumstances

The Secretary

to the Board of Trade.

circumstances Lord Halifax feels bound to maintain the view that His Majesty's Government should do everything possible to discourage destitute refugees from going to Shanghai, and that any damage which may thus be caused to the interests of British shipping lines is outweighed by the damage to British interests in Shanghai which is likely to result from the influx of many thousands of refugees without means of support and who must be maintained by funds contributed to a large extent from this country.

3. Lord Halifax therefore regrets that he does not feel able to modify the instructions issued to His Majesty's Passport Control and Consular Officers in Germany regarding the issue of transit visas for the United Kingdom to refugees intending to travel to Shanghai. These instructions are that applications for transit visas for the United Kingdom en route to Shanghai, even if supported by evidence of a passage from the United Kingdom booked in Germany, cannot be granted. Where adequate maintenance in Shanghai is guaranteed, applications may be granted on receipt of specific authorisation. Lord Halifax appreciates that these instructions may achieve little more than to cause refugees to travel to the Far East by non-British shipping lines, but in view of the requests received from His Majesty's Ambassador and Consul-General and from the Council for German Jewry, he considers that it would be difficult to justify any other course. Additional reasons for maintaining these instructions are that many refugees stating that they

/intend

intend to travel to Shanghai are believed to contemplate entering Palestine illegally, and that in the absence of visa requirements for Shanghai, refugees who obtain a United Kingdom transit visa en route for Shanghai may in fact remain in the United Kingdom whence it would be very difficult to expel them. The latter consideration is one which primarily concerns the Home Office, to which copies of this correspondence are being sent.

4. Similarly Lord Halifax feels bound to adhere to the request that the proposed communication to the British shipping companies should be in the terms suggested in the second paragraph of the letter from this Department No. W 1515/519/48 of the 3rd February, rather than in those suggested in the Board's letter under reference. If the shipping companies choose to disregard this communication, His Majesty's Government cannot of course take any action to compel them to comply with it. But Lord Halifax is of the opinion that it would be extremely undesirable for His Majesty's Government to accept any responsibility for adding to the already grave problem existing in Shanghai.

5. As requested in paragraph 3 of the Board's letter under reference, His Majesty's Ambassadors in Berlin and Rome are being requested, in the despatches of which copies are enclosed, to report any further information which they may be able to obtain regarding the refugee
/traffic

traffic to the Far East from German and Italian ports.
In this connexion I am also to enclose a copy of a
telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at Rome regarding
the action taken by the Italian Government.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) A. W. G. RANDALL

1939

W

REFUGEES

W. 8638

72

2 JUN 1939

Registry Number } W 8638/519/48

FROM Home Office

No. Gen. 33/83/2

Dated 1st June, 1939

Received in Registry } 2nd June, 1939

W : Refugees

Emigration to Shanghai of Jewish refugees.

Transmit copy of a letter dated 1st June to the Board of Trade regarding measures to be taken to discourage refugees from leaving Greater Germany for Shanghai via United Kingdom.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

W 5686

References.

W 5686/519/48

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Copy to Berlin no
Rome no, Shanghai no
June 11
m w 8663

There is not much more which the H.O. could do to stop this emigration to Shanghai

G. M. 5/6

Useful support from the H.O.

Passport Control W.T. 15/6

Heath, v. Dept
for Epstein

MR

6/6.

Copy Berlin & Rome & Shanghai
in Randall's file

SWK

6/6

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

8657

PC 6/6

Next Paper.

W 8661

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
HOME OFFICE
(ALIENS DEPARTMENT),
CLELAND HOUSE,
PAGE STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1,

and the following number quoted:—

Gen. 33/83/2.

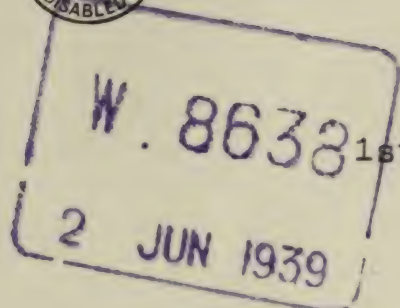


HOME OFFICE,

CLELAND HOUSE, 73

PAGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.



1st June, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare to enclose, for the information of Viscount Halifax, copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Board of Trade regarding the influx of Jewish refugees from Central Europe into Shanghai.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. Cooper

The Under Secretary of State,
FOREIGN OFFICE,
S. W. 1.

COPY.

HOME OFFICE (ALIENS DEPT.)

CLELAND HOUSE, PAGE STREET, S.W.1.

74

Gen. 33/83/2.

1st June, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare to say that his attention has been drawn to the recent correspondence between the Board of Trade (M.4867/39) and the Foreign Office (W.5686/519/48) regarding the influx of Jewish refugees from Central Europe into Shanghai and to add that in a number of cases in which such refugees have been admitted to this country in transit for the purpose of proceeding to Shanghai in British vessels, representations have subsequently been made to this Department that the condition of immediate departure for Shanghai should not be enforced having regard to the distressing conditions which are known to exist among the refugees at present in Shanghai. Sir Samuel Hoare has felt obliged to accede to such representations and as it is not practicable in present circumstances to insist upon their return to Greater Germany, these persons have to be allowed to remain in the United Kingdom although they have not been selected or brought to this country by one of the voluntary refugee organisations and consequently become at once a burden upon the funds of the organisation. In order to meet this difficulty, and at the request of the Co-ordinating Committee for Refugees, instructions have been sent to the appropriate Passport Control Officers that no transit visas should be granted to refugees who wish to come to this country en route to Shanghai and I am to say that Sir Samuel Hoare

/would

The Secretary,
Board of Trade,
Mercantile Marine Department,
Great George Street,
S. W. 1.

would accordingly welcome any additional steps which it may be possible for the Board of Trade to take, as suggested by Lord Halifax, to discourage refugees from leaving Greater Germany for Shanghai via the United Kingdom.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Foreign Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

COPY.

HOME OFFICE (ALIENS DEPT.)

76

CLELAND HOUSE, PAGE STREET, S.W. 1

Gen. 33/83/2.

1st June, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare to
enclose, for the information of Viscount Halifax, copy of
a letter which has been addressed to the Board of Trade
regarding the influx of Jewish refugees from Central Europe
into Shanghai.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd.) E. N. COOPER.

The Under Secretary of State,

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S. W. 1.

1939

W

REFUGEES

W 8661

77

2 JUN 1939

Registry Number W 8661/519/48.

FROM Chancery Rome.
to Western (General)
Department.
No. (48/26/39)

Dated 30th May 1939.

Received in Registry } 2nd June
1939.

Refugees.

Emigration to Shanghai of Jewish refugees.

Refer to Foreign Office despatch No. 755 dated 13th May (W 5686/519/48). Give reasons why further information cannot be obtained regarding extent of above traffic in Italian vessels. Suggests, that if Shanghai continue to report arrival of refugees in Italian vessels, that Rome Embassy be instructed to renew representations. Alternatively pressure could be brought to bear on the Italian Consul in Shanghai.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

Please see W 8663.

G.M. War. S/P.

References.

W 4253/519/48

Copy Berlin
H/O } ref
B/I

(Print.)

Shanghai
✓ H. Reddell's file MR 6/6

(How disposed of.)

Copy to Berlin
(no)

H.O. B of T and Shanghai
(no)

m W 8663

June 14

W 8663 suggests that the traffic in Italian ships will now stop. so I don't think we need take the action suggested here about Italian lines

MR 6/6 Aug 6/6

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

4253

8661

Next Paper.

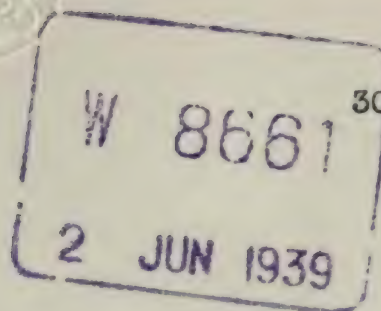
W 8663

(48/26/39)

13
BRITISH EMBASSY,
ROME.

78

30th May, 1939



Dear Department,

Your despatch No. 755 (W 5686/519/48) of May 13th in regard to the influx of refugees into Shanghai.

W4253 | It would be very difficult for us to obtain further information here as regards the extent of this traffic in Italian vessels. Were we to ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they would doubtless repeat the answer which they have already given (Lord Perth's telegram No. 66 Saving of March 8th) viz., that they had taken measures to stop it. His Majesty's Consul at Trieste could make enquiries at the head office of the Lloyd Triestino, but the large commercial companies in Italy are required to report to the Ministry of Corporations all requests from foreign officials for information, and to supply that information to the enquirer via the Ministry, so the fact of our making enquiries would become known and might not be welcomed.

We /

Western Department,

Foreign Office.

- 2 -

We suggest, rather, that if the authorities in Shanghai (who are in the best position to know) continue to report the arrival of refugees in Italian ships, we should be instructed to renew the representations which we have already made. Alternatively, pressure could be brought to bear on the Italian Consul in Shanghai who is already in touch with his Government on the subject.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

1939

W

REFUGEES

W 8663
80

2 JUN 1939

Registry Number } W 8663/519/48

FROM Sir N. Henderson,
Berlin

No. 625 (22/97/39)

Dated 31st May 1939

Received in Registry } 2nd June 1939

W: Refugees

Emigration to Shanghai of Jewish refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 946 of 13th May (W 5686/519/48). Gives gist of report from His Majesty's Consul-General, Hamburg, and encloses copy of minute by Passport Control Officer, Berlin, regarding refugee traffic to the Far East. No report has yet been received from His Majesty's Consul, Bremen.

Last Paper.

W 8661

References.

W 1017/519/48

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tels Berlin no 67 Saving.

Shanghai no 466.

12 June.

9. Berlin 11/4/9

Shanghai 518 W 8633

Rome 983 and comes

14. H.O. (with W 8661 and comes)

Bopt.

8. Dr. Bruchstein

(comes) June 14

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

WASH RE 6/9

Next Paper.

W 9576

(Minutes.)

Please read W 8661.

There is nothing of interest either from Berlin or Rome but the report from the P.C.O. in Berlin ~~the Consul General at Bremen~~ is very disturbing. Apparently a shipload of 700 refugees is to be forcibly embarked for Shanghai on June 25th. The ~~Consul General~~ P.C.O. urges that they should be sent to Palestine which is of course impossible, particularly in view of recent events, unless they have been accepted as part of the quota. It is difficult to see what can be done at this late stage to prevent them being dumped in Shanghai.

G.M. 5/6.

We can only press the Embassy to make still more energetic representations to the German Govt., and inform Shanghai, enquire whether

it is possible to strengthen the
representations through the
Consul-General in that
city. The only sure way
of stopping the traffic is the
issuance of a visa for
the firm
Shanghai
application
regulations.

A.W.G.R.
6/vi

SK.
Central Mr. Allen
For Eastern } Dept.

I am afraid that Mr. Randall's solution is not one
that we can bring about in present conditions in China.

So far as Shanghai is concerned the situation as
regards control over immigration was complicated enough
in peace time. The Chinese Government did introduce
a passport inspection, and incoming passengers had to
have a Chinese visa or else they had their passports
detained until they had paid the necessary visa fee to
the Chinese passport office. This procedure was
accepted as a compromise and facilitated by the good-
will of the foreign authorities concerned. Revenue was
all the Chinese could hope to get out of the passport
control arrangements; they could never, in practice,
prevent the entry of undesirables because they had no

jurisdiction/

jurisdiction over foreign shipping or over extra-territorial foreigners. They could not punish the latter nor could they compel the shipping companies to take the undesirables back to the port of embarkation.

The position is even more difficult now that the local Chinese puppet administration is not recognised by anybody, and can only function with Japanese military backing. We cannot well ask the Japanese to take measures against the German Government for our benefit, and in any case we would not wish to encourage the institution of passport control measures by the Japanese and so add to the many vexatious restrictions under which our own people are already suffering.

H. R. M.
8/6

G, - now draft to Berlin + inform Shanghai by telegram, suggesting pressure on German Consul-General?

M. R. E.
9/6

Drafts submitted

Copy Rome
Shanghai
Hr
B/S

✓ Mr. Broderick
Mr. Randall, file

M. R. E.
9/6

Minutes.

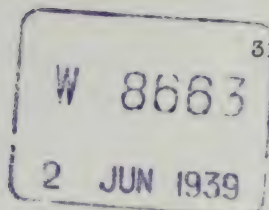
NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

No. 625
22/97/39

7C
British Embassy,
Berlin.

82

31st May 1939.



MY Lord,

I have the honour to refer to Your Lordship's despatch No. 946 (W 5686/519/48) of 13th May last and to inform you that I have called for further reports from His Majesty's Consular Representatives at Bremen and Hamburg regarding the present extent of the refugee traffic to the Far East in German ships.

W1017
2. Mr. Robinson informs me that, as far as Hamburg is concerned, the position is the same as that reported in his despatch No. 1 of January 10th, 1939 (enclosure to my despatch No. 65 of 17th January). The Norddeutscher Lloyd and the Italian Line both have waiting lists but are not taking so many refugees in each ship owing to the increase in tourists and passengers returning after home leave. Mr. Robinson understands that the majority of applications come from the Breslau district, but he is unable to obtain figures as to the number of refugees concerned.

3. I have as yet received no report from His Majesty's Consul, Bremen. I have however the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith copy of a minute by the Passport Control Officer in Berlin on the general position as regards the refugee traffic to the Far East as seen from the angle of his office.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

humble Servant,

The Right Honourable
Viscount Halifax, K.G., G.C.S.I.,
G.C.I.E.,
etc., etc., etc.

Neil Henderson

COPYTiergartenstrasse 17,
Berlin W 35.

May 26, 1939.

THE CHANCERYSHANGHAI REFUGEE TRAFFIC

The facts are as follows:-

1. GERMANY : The N.D.L. continue to book refugees for Shanghai on the basis of Mark payments.
2. ITALY : The Lloyd Triestino will continue to book on the basis of Mark payments until May 31, 1939. They booked a passenger on May 25. As from June 1, 1939, this company will accept Devisen payments only. This means that the traffic in Italian ships will be practically suspended from that date. In this way Italy would seem to have found a way of withdrawing from this traffic without offending Germany.
3. JAPAN : The Japanese insist on Devisen payments.
4. DENMARK : The Danes insist on Devisen payments.
5. NORWAY : The Norwegian insist on Devisen payments.
6. As from June 1, 1939, the traffic will for all practical purposes be confined to German ships.
7. In order to avoid any interruption of the traffic, Germany is to charter special ships. One is sailing from Danzig on June 20, 1939. She will carry 700 refugees from East Prussia. They will be forcibly embarked.

As these ships return to Europe in ballast, fares are very high. The Danzig State will contribute £20.000 in Devisen. The refugee has to pay RM 1.000. If he/she is not able to raise that sum, the Hilfsverein has, under Gestapo orders, to contribute up to a maximum of RM 1.000.00 per head.

8./

- 2 -

8. Perhaps the Chancery will forgive me for stating my opinion that both on grounds of humanity and of wider British interests, it is an infinite pity these unfortunate people are not allowed to immigrate to Palestine.

We in this office are the daily witnesses of the sufferings of old and broken people under orders to leave this country. They beseech us to allow them to join their children in Palestine. I have referred hundreds of cases to Palestine. If I am not sent hundreds of certificates in the near future, I fear they too will be dumped in Shanghai.

(sgd.) F. FOLEY.

(W 8663/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) to Sir N. Henderson (Berlin)

Foreign Office, 12th June 1939.

No.67. SAVING. BY BAG.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Your despatch No.625 of the 31st May [emigration of Jewish refugees to Shanghai].

2. Minute by Passport Control Officer shows that Germans are intensifying traffic to Shanghai. Unless you see serious objection, please approach German authorities again on this subject. You might point out that contrary to statement reported in your telegram No.77 Saving [of the 23rd February] German authorities are reported to be actively engaged in sending Jews to Shanghai or even forcing them to go there. Emigration of this kind to places which offer no hope of permanent settlement can only hamper work of promoting orderly emigration from Germany to which the German Government, in their discussions with representatives of the Inter-governmental committee, have shown that they attach importance. Governments which are endeavouring to increase possibilities of settlement for German Jews are entitled to expect that the German Government should not complicate their task in this way.

3. His Majesty's Ambassador at Shanghai is being asked to suggest to German Consul-General that he should renew his representations to his government urging that traffic should be stopped.

(W 8663/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Cypher telegram to Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai)

Foreign Office, 12th June, 1939, 5.30 p.m.

No. 466.

:-:-:-++ ++:-:

Sir H. Phillips' telegram to you No. 27 of 4th February
[influx of Jewish refugees into Shanghai].

His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin reports that traffic will
in future be confined to German ships, but that number of
German ships carrying refugees will be increased by chartering
of special ships. One sails from Danzig on 20th June with
700 refugees from East Prussia who will be forcibly embarked.

2. His Majesty's Ambassador is being requested to make
further representations to the German Government. It might
help if German Consul-General at Shanghai renewed his own
representations to his Government, and I should be grateful if
Sir H. Phillips would approach him accordingly.

Copy to Berlin and Rome.

1939

W

REFUGEES

W. 9576

87

21 JUN 1939

Registry Number } W 9576/519/48

FROM Board of Trade

No. M.4867/39

Dated 20th June, 1939

Received in Registry } 21st June, 1939

W : Refugees

Entry of Jewish refugees into Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 16th May (W 5686/519/48).

Requests that telegraphic instructions be sent to His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai that he should furnish a report as to the extent to which destitute refugees have arrived on British ships.

Last Paper.

W 8663

(Minutes.)

References.

F. E. Dept. *Jan*
d. a.
22.6.

Draft telegram submitted

G. M. Harr.

21/6.

J. W. R.

21/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. Shanghai no 523

14. Bof T. June 21

June 22

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Jan 10/7

RE 6/9

Next Paper.

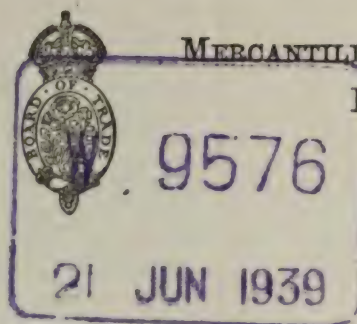
W 9840

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—

The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department
(address as opposite)

and the following number quoted:—

M. 4867/39.



MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

20th June, 1939.

Sir,

With reference to your letter W.5686/519/48 of the 16th May, and connected correspondence, regarding the influx of Jewish refugees from Central Europe into Shanghai I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that they would be glad if, should the Secretary of State see no objection, telegraphic instructions should be sent to His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai to furnish a report as to the extent to which destitute refugees have arrived, this year, on British ships, (with an indication of the names of the British ships engaged in the traffic) and whether such refugees are still arriving in British ships.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

OUT FILE

89

(W.9576/519/48).

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) to Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai).

Foreign Office, June 21st 1939. 7.30 p.m.

No.523.

My despatch No.413 [of May 17th].

Please request His Majesty's Consul General to report the number of destitute refugees who have arrived in Shanghai this year on British ships and indicate the names of these ships. It would also be useful to know whether the traffic still continues on British ships and at what rate.

<div>20</div> <div>1039</div>	<div>W</div> <div>REFUGEES</div>	<div>W. 9840</div> <div>90</div> <div>27 JUN 1939</div>
<div>Registry Number } W 9840/519/48</div> <div>FROM Sir N. Henderson (Berlin)</div> <div>No. 737 (22/104/39)</div> <div>Dated 24th June, 1939</div> <div>Received in Registry } 27th June, 1939</div> <div>W : Refugees</div>	<div>Emigration to Shanghai of Jewish refugees.</div> <div>Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 946 of 13th May (W 5686/519/48).</div> <div>Transmits copy of despatch No. 39 of 22nd June from His Majesty's Consul at Bremen reporting the continuance of the Jewish refugee traffic to the Far East in German ships. 75% of the bookings to the Far East by the North German Lloyd are in respect of these refugees. The Bremen Agent of the Rotterdamscher Lloyd is constantly receiving enquiries from refugees about passages to Shanghai.</div>	
<div>Last Paper.</div> <div>W 9576</div> <div>References.</div>	<div>(Minutes.)</div> <div>Copy B/i</div> <div>to</div> <div>Shanghai</div> <div>Rome</div> <div>Mr Brooks (Treas)</div> <div>Mr Randall's file</div> <div>ref.</div> <div>Central (H.K.)</div> <div>FE. Acfr</div> <div>f. H. K.</div> <div>13.7.</div> <div>OPR</div> <div>517</div>	
<div>(Print.)</div> <div>(How disposed of.)</div> <div>14. Bof T.</div> <div>16.</div> <div>8. Mr Brooks (Treas)</div> <div>9. Rome no 992</div> <div>Shanghai no 649</div> <div>July 10.</div>		
<div>(Action completed.)</div> <div>Jan 26/39</div> <div>(Index.)</div> <div>PC 619</div>		
<div>Next Paper.</div> <div>W 9863</div>	<div>19088 4/30 F.O.I.</div>	

No. 737 (22/104/39)

W. 9840
27 JUN 1939

91

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin
presents his compliments to H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents. Affairs.

British Embassy,.....

Berlin.

.....24th June....., 19.39..

Reference to previous correspondence :

Foreign Office despatch No. 946

May 13th (W 5686/519/48)

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From: H.M. Vice-Consul, Bremen. Despatch No. 39. 22nd June, 1939.	Jewish refugee traffic to the Far East.

No. 39.
(26/7/39)

British Consulate, 92
BERLIN,
22nd June, 1939.

Your Excellency,

With reference to Embassy Telegram No. 1
Dating of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report
that I learn that the Jewish refugee traffic to the
Far East in German ships continues to be brisk, and
that roughly 75% of the bookings to that part of the
world by the North German Lloyd are in respect of
these refugees.

2. I hear, further, that this Company has a
waiting list of such passengers.

3. The local agent of the Rotterdamscher Lloyd
and other steamship companies, whom I have seen on this
matter, also informs me that he is constantly receiving
enquiries from refugees about passages to Shanghai, but
the business so far as foreign steamship companies are
concerned, is subject to the amount of foreign currency
allotted to them.

4. I understand that many Jewish refugees
embark in Hamburg, but I am unable to ascertain here
what percentage is carried by German ships.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Your Excellency,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sgd.) H. BULLOCK,

His Majesty's Ambassador,
British Embassy,
BERLIN, W.8.

21
1939

W

REFUGEES

W 9863
93
28 JUN 1939

Registry Number } W 9863/519/48
TELEGRAM FROM
Sir M. Henderson
(Berlin)
No. 277 Saving
en clair.
Dated 26th June, 1939
Received in Registry } 28th June, 1939
W : Refugees

Emigration of Jewish refugees to Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram No. 67 Saving of June 12th (W 8663/519/48).
Necessary representations have been made to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who deny that pressure is being brought to bear on Jews to emigrate to Shanghai but point out that Shanghai appears to be the only destination open to Jews from Germany. They do not see their way to deter Jews from emigrating to Shanghai if they so desire and state that the Intergovernmental Committee should find an alternative to Shanghai.

Last Paper.

W 9840

(Minutes.)

2 papers.

References.

pp with The City Dept. Shanghai. 14th 15th 16th 17th

(Print.)

This is an unsatisfactory
reply. Shanghai is, of course,
not the only destination open to Jews
from Germany. and other countries.
Arguments will be given. I rather
doubt, however, whether it is
worth while returning to the charge,
except perhaps the way of
stimulating more energetic refs. by
the United Consular authorities at
Shanghai to their respective
govts.

Ans R.
7/7

(Action completed.)

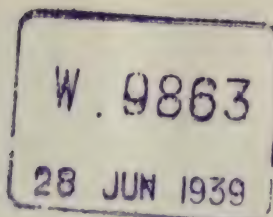
(Index.)

9m 26/7

PC 69

For Eastern } Depts.
Central 25/7

Next Paper.



94

From: GERMANY.

Telegram (en clair) from Sir N. Henderson (Berlin)
26th June 1939.

D. 26th June 1939.

R. 28th June 1939.

No. 277. SAVING. BY BAG.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Your telegram Saving No. 67 of June 12th. Emigration
of Jewish refugees to Shanghai.

In accordance with your instructions necessary representations have been made to the competent department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with whom a statement of your views has been left in writing.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs deny that pressure is being brought to bear on Jews to emigrate to Shanghai. They point out nevertheless that Shanghai appears at present to be the only destination open to Jews from Germany. They receive full information of the position from the German Consul General at Shanghai, but will not see their way to deter Jews from emigrating to Shanghai if they so desire, adding that it is essential that all Jews must leave Germany as soon as possible and that it is up to the Inter-Governmental Committee to find an alternative to Shanghai.

JUN
28 1939
MINISTRY

W

REFUGEES

1939

W10263
95
JUL 1939

Registry Number W 10263/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Consul-General

No. Phillips.
(Shanghai)

Date 100 (en clair)
4th July, 1939.

Received in Registry 6th July,
1939.

W : Refugees

Last Paper.

W 9863

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

14. Bof. July 6-

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

W 237 RC 6/9.

Next Paper.

W 10409

Entry of Jewish refugees into Shanghai.

Refers to telegram No. 523 of 21st June to
Shanghai Embassy (W 9576/519/48)

55 destitute refugees have arrived in Shanghai
this year on the British ships Empress of Japan,
Rajputana, Aeneas, Ranchi and Persue.

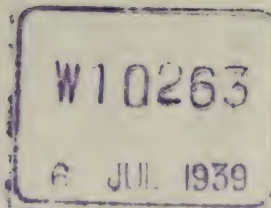
Last two months have shown remarkable
reduction in traffic by British ships.
(Repeated to Shanghai Embassy No. 105)

(Minutes.)

Copy sent B/i.

PC Dep W J.H.M.
13.7.

MR
c/s



96

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) From Sir H. Phillips (Shanghai).
July 4th 1939.

D. Wireless, July 5th 1939.

R. 9.00 p.m. July 5th 1939.

No.100.

Your telegram to Shanghai Embassy No.523.

55 destitute refugees have arrived in Shanghai this year
on British ships. Names of ships and numbers carried are as
follows:-

Empress of Japan 10

Ranpura 6

Mentor 3

Hector 3

Patroclus 3

Carthage 7

Rajputana 5

Aeneas 13

Ranchi 4 and

Persue 1.

The last two months have shown notable reduction in traffic
by British ships only 6 destitute refugees arriving in May
and one in June.

Addressed to Foreign Office No.100 of July 4th, repeated
tp Embassy No.105.



F.O. REGISTRY

23

W

W10409

97

10 JUL 1939

REFUGEES

Emigration to Shanghai of Jewish refugees.

Addressed to Shanghai Embassy No. 104 of the 3rd July.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram to Shanghai Embassy No. 466 of the 12th June (W 8663/519/48).

Consul-General discussed question with Committee and was conducted round refugee camps. German Consul General was then urged to renew representations to his Government. He was unaware that German refugee traffic would be confined to German ships.

Registry
Number W10409/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM

Consul General Phillips

No. (Shanghai)

99 Decypher

Dated 3rd July 1939

Received
in Registry 10th July
1939

W : Refugees.

Last Paper.

W10263

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

H. Prof T
HO

8. Mr Brooks (Treas)

9. Berlin no 1566

Rome no 1003

July 12

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

W10604

(Minutes.)

Please see W9863 1 minute there on

7. H. M.
Far East
Central
24/7

Copy 8/1
HO
Mr Brooks (Treas)
Berlin
Rome

Mr Reilly
11/7

A. W. R.
11/7

W10409

10 JUL 1939

98

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Decypher. Sir H. Phillips (Shanghai).
3rd July, 1939.

D. (Via W/T.) 4th July, 1939.

R. 4.30 p.m., 4th July, 1939. (Repetition received
July 8th.)

No. 99.

:::::::::

Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador No. 104 of July 3rd.

Foreign Office telegram No. 466 of June 12th to you.

2. I have discussed this question with [? Chinese] Committee who have recently conducted me round several of the refugee camps and fortified with special knowledge thus gained I have approached German Consul-General and have pressed him to renew his representations to his Government. He was unaware that German traffic will be confined to German ships.

3. I am [grp. undec.] full consideration will be given to the matter with a view to making if possible additional recommendations to cut down the numbers.

Repeated to Foreign Office No. 99.

JUL 1939
10
F.O. REGISTRY.

24	W	W10604 99 14 JUL 1939
1939	REFUGEES	
Registry Number } W 10604/519/48 FROM Board of Trade No. M. 4867/39 Dated 13th July, 1939. Received in Registry } 14th July, 1939. # : Refugees	<u>Jewish emigration to Shanghai in British vessels.</u> Refers to Foreign Office letter of 16th May (W 5686/519/48) Since only 7 destitute refugees arrived on British ships in Shanghai during the two months May and June considers that it is unnecessary to address any communication to British shipping companies in the matter. (Copy to Home Office)	
Last Paper. W10409 References. (Print.) (How disposed of.)	(Minutes.) In the circumstances I think we might abandon the struggle to get the B/i to issue the proposed communication to British shipping co's. ✓ H.M. 19/7 Far Eastern Dept 19/7 Passport Control Dept 19/7 M.R. 17/7 Yes: the matter involved is negligible. AUGR 18/7	
(Action completed.) 25/7 (Index.) RC64		
Next Paper. W12030		

Telegram—"SHIPMINDER, PARL, LONDON."
Telephone—WHITEHALL 5140.

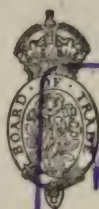
100

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—

The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department
(address as opposite)

and the following number quoted:—

M.4867/39.



MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

13th July, 1939.

W 10604

14 JUL 1939

Sir,

With further reference to your letter W 5686/519/48 of the 16th May, regarding the influx of Jewish refugees from Central Europe into Shanghai, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that, inasmuch as it appears from telegram No. 100 of the 4th July from His Majesty's Consul General, Shanghai, that only 7 destitute refugees arrived on British ships in Shanghai during the two months May and June, they feel that it is unnecessary to address any communication to British shipping companies in the matter.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Home Office.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

M. M. V. Custance

The Under-Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

1939

W

W12030

101

16 AUG 1939

REFUGEES

Registry Number W12030/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM

Consul-General Phillips (Shanghai).

115 R Important.

Dated 15th August 1939

Received Registry 16th August 1939

W : Refugees.

Last Paper.

W10604

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Off B of T. Aug 17.
11 No Aug 17.
9 Rome no 1127.
Berlin no 1625.
Aug 18.

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

4/9 Rc 6/9.

Next Paper.

W 12328

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Addressed to Shanghai Embassy No.121. Refers to Shanghai telegram No.99 of 3rd July (W 10409/519/48) Jewish refugees residing in Northern Section of International Settlement under Japanese control must register before 22nd August and after that date new arrivals will not be allowed in Japanese occupied areas. Suggests that decision by Shanghai Municipal Council to forbid further entry of refugees from Europe be communicated to all British shipping companies.

(Minutes)

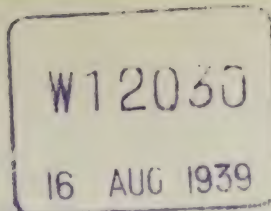
The B/i will have to circulate
British shipping companies now!

Refr to B/i.

FD Dept f. HOC
Ready Dept 19.8
Passport Control Dept 19.8
g/a

J. P. R. 16/8.

W



102

NO DISTRIBUTION

Decode. Sir H. Phillips (Shanghai).
15th August 1939.

D. (By Wireless) 15th August 1939.

R. 9.30 a.m. 16th August 1939.

No. 115. (R).

IMPORTANT

Addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador, Shanghai, No. 121.

My telegram No. 104 of July 3rd, repeated to Foreign Office
No. 99, on the subject of Jewish refugees

2. Japanese authorities have announced that all Jewish
refugees residing in Northern section of International Settlement
under Japanese occupation must register before August 22nd and new
arrivals will not be allowed to live in Japanese occupied areas
after that date. Jewish Committee is negotiating with Japanese
authorities in order to obtain an extension of date so as to cover
refugees already en route from Europe.

3. Japanese action has been followed by a decision by Shanghai
Municipal Council stating that the Council is compelled to forbid
any further entry into International Settlement of refugees from
Europe. A letter has been addressed by the Council to each Consul
to this effect and they state that steps will be taken to prevent
any such further immigration. This letter also requests that I
should inform all interested British authorities and shipping com-
panies of above decision.

4. It appears to be the case that accommodation for any further
influx of refugees can only be found in Northern district and

that.....

2.

that no accommodation is available anywhere in International Settlement directly under control of Council and Jewish Committee would have the utmost difficulty in coping with the situation.

5. Number of Jewish refugees who have arrived here now totals 16,000 and unless this immigration is checked a serious situation can very easily arise here.

6. I suggest that news of Council's decision may be communicated to all British shipping companies.

7. New ruling on the part of Council is said not to apply to those European refugees who have already embarked on vessels and who are on their way to Shanghai.

FOREIGN OFFICE,

S.W.1.

17th August, 1939.

Immediate.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from the Board of Trade No. M 4867/39, of the 13th July regarding the emigration of Jewish refugees to Shanghai, I am directed by Viscount Halifax to transmit to you herewith a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai, reporting that refugees from Europe will no longer be allowed to enter the International Settlement, including the northern section of the Settlement under Japanese occupation.

2. I am to request that all British shipping companies concerned may be informed accordingly.

3. A copy of this letter is being sent to the Home Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgill) H. L. FARQUHAR

The Secretary

to the Board of Trade.



1939

W

REFUGEES

W12328

105

24 AUG 1939

Registry Number W 12328/519/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Sir A. Clark Kerr.
(Shanghai)

V. 897 en clair
Dated 15th August, 1939.
Received
in Registry 24th August,
1939.

W : Refugees

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Refers to Shanghai Consul-General's telegram
No. 115 of 15th August (W 12030/519/48)
Presumes that action will be taken accordingly.

Last Paper.

W12030

References.

(Minutes)

see W 120339/519/48.

MR

24/8

see within Shanghai Telegram no 948
of 26 August.

(Print.)

Copy to 10th of W 12339 Aug
Tel. Shanghai unum.
✓ Aug 24.

Tel. Shanghai no 813.
✓ Aug 26.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

4m 31/8 PC60.

Next Paper.

W 12339

W

W12328
106
24 AUG 1939

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) from Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai),
15th August, 1939.

D. W/T 15th August, 1939.

R. 6.29 p.m. 15th August, 1939.

No. 897.

Shanghai Consul-General's telegram No. 121 to me,
paragraph 6. W 12030 | signature

Presume you will act accordingly.

AUG
15 1939
FCA. BUREAU.

9.72 ID
9.10.10/10

112 = 116
113 = 111
114 = 123
116 = 123

? 115 = 121

W12328/519/48

OUT FILE
20-

1074

Code telegram to Sir A. Clark-Kerr (Shanghai)

Foreign Office, 24th August 1939. 7.00 p.m.

No. - R.

oooooooooooooooooooo

Your telegram No.897 [of 15th August].

Consul-General's telegram No.121 to you not yet
received.

INDEXED

108

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) from Sir A. Clark Kerr, (Shanghai).
26th August, 1939.

D. (Wireless) 26th August, 1939.

R. 26th August, 1939.

No. 948.

0:0:0:0:0:0

Your telegram Unnumbered of 25th August.

Consul-General's telegram No. 121 to me was
repeated to you as his No. 115 of August 15th. Do
you want it repeated again?

27 AUG 1939
F.O. BRISTOL

OUT FILE

109

(W 12328/519/48)

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Code telegram to Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai)

Foreign Office, 26th August 1939.

No.813.

oooooooooooooooo

Cancel my unnumbered telegram of 24th. Consul-
General's telegram No.121 received.

27
1939

W

REFUGEES

W1233
110
24 AUG 1939

Registry } W 12339/519/48
Number }
FROM Board of Trade.

No M. 4867/39.

Dated 23rd August, 1939

Received } 24th August,
in Registry } 1939.

W : Refugees.

Jewish refugees in Shanghai.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 17th August (W 12030/519/48).

Encloses copy of letter of 23rd August sent to the associations of shipowners in the United Kingdom regarding the decision of the Shanghai authorities to forbid further entry of Jewish refugees.

Last Paper.

W 12328

References.

(Minutes.)

pp with Dept

we shd inform Shanghai - see W12328

Dept

MR

24/8

✓ HRC
F.E. Dept

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Tel. Shanghai
no 814.

Aug 25.

Mr. Bof T.
(with W12328)

✓ Aug 28

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

9/1/9

pc/9

Next Paper.

W13793

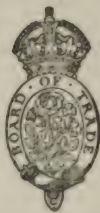
Telegrams—"SHIPMINDER, PARL, LONDON."
Telephone—WHITEHALL 5140.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to:—

The Assistant Secretary,
Mercantile Marine Department
(address as opposite)

and the following number quoted:—

M. 4867/39.



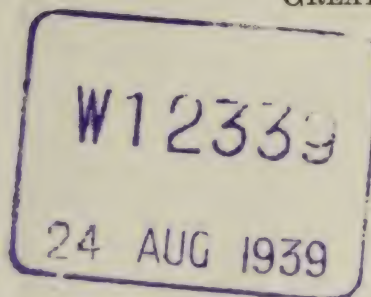
MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT,

BOARD OF TRADE,

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON, S.W.1.

23rd August, 1939.



Sir,

With reference to your letter W.12030/519/48 of the 17th August, regarding the immigration of Jewish refugees into Shanghai, I am directed by the Board of Trade to enclose herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter on the subject which is being addressed to the associations of shipowners in this country.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. Lunn

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

COPY.

Mercantile Marine Department, 112
Board of Trade,
Great George Street,
London, S.W.1.

M. 4367/39.

23rd August, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by the Board of Trade to state, for the information of your interested members, that information has been received, through the Foreign Office to the effect that the Japanese authorities at Shanghai have announced that all Jewish refugees residing in the northern section of the International Settlement at Shanghai, under Japanese occupation, must register before August 23rd, and new arrivals will not be allowed to live in Japanese occupied areas after that date. Further the Shanghai Municipal Council has decided that it is compelled to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe, and in notifying this decision to each Consul the Council has intimated that steps will be taken to prevent any such further immigration.

A similar letter has been sent to The Liverpool Steam Ship Owners' Association.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

The General Manager,
Chamber of Shipping of the
United Kingdom,
29, St. Mary Axe, E.C.3.

(Sgd.) W. T. TURNER.

W 12339/519/48.

NO DISTRIBUTION.

Telegram (en clair) to Sir A. Clark Kerr (Shanghai).

Foreign Office, 25th August, 1939. 10 p.m.

No. 814.

Your telegram No. 897.

Shipowners informed 23rd August.

GENERAL

W13793

114

20 SEP 1939

1939

REFUGEES

German refugees in China.

Transmits copy of correspondence between M. Kullmann and Mr. Hayter at Shanghai. A form of passport to stateless persons is issued by the Chinese Invoice Officer in Hongkong who will accept applications in writing from persons in Japanese-occupied areas.

Mr. A. Loonis, honorary representative of the High Commissioner on behalf of Russian refugees is not a suitable person for such a post.

Registry } W13793/519/48
Number }

FROM Mr. Reilly
(Ministry of Economic
Warfare.)

No.

Dated 18th Sept: 1939

Received } 20th Sept:
in Registry } 1939

General : Refugees

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

W12339
W13793

References.

GMB 28/9.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Am 21/9

Pl 1/10

Next Paper.

W14479

COPY

HIGH COMMISSIONER

for Refugees

Under the Protection of the

League of Nations.

16, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2.

14th June, 1939

Dear Hayter,

.....

I write for your help and advice on two matters:

First, I should like to draw your attention to several individual requests from German refugees who have been able to make a living in China and who complain that after expiration of their German passports they possess no identity papers whatever.

As you know, China is not a party to any of the Arrangements or Conventions providing identity papers for stateless refugees. Do you know whether the Chinese authorities have ever considered the problem of these stateless people, and whether in some instances some sort of identity paper has been given to them? Could the question be raised differently for stateless refugees residing in one of the concessions? The last case brought to my attention is a case of a German physician having a practice in Tientsin.

Here is the second question: We have heard very little of Mr. A. Loonis, Room 310, 113, Kiukiang Road, Shanghai, who has been commissioned to continue his work as honorary representative on behalf of Russian refugees. As we are rather anxious to have information about his work and the situation of this refugee group, I wonder whether it might be possible for you to look into the matter and let us know.

From press reports I take it that you must have a very busy time in China.

.....

(Signed) G. KULLMANN.

G. Hayter Esquire,
British Embassy,
SHANGHAI.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
SHANGHAI.

BY AIR MAIL

11th August, 1939.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Kullmann,

Many thanks for your letter of June 14th concerning the position of refugees in this country.

The answers to your questions appear to be as follows. The Chinese authorities before the hostilities used to issue a form of passport to stateless persons which did not naturalise them but so to speak confirmed their statelessness. Such passports continue to be issued by the Chinese Invoice Officer in Hongkong who will accept applications in writing from persons in the Japanese-occupied areas. This applies whether the persons in question reside in a foreign concession or not, and the authorities of the foreign areas have never themselves issued any form of identity papers.

As regards Mr. Loonis I have not myself met him and can give you very little first-hand information. But I feel I should tell you in strict confidence that some of his activities in the past have not escaped criticism here: for instance at one time after the outbreak of hostilities here he was issuing what purported to be "Nansen passports" for a fee the proceeds of which do not appear to have been transmitted to Geneva. I am not sure / that

G. Kullmann Esquire,

Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

under the protection of the League of Nations,

16, Northumberland Avenue, W.C. 2.

LONDON

-2-

that he is an altogether suitable representative of the High Commissioner here, but it may be difficult to find a substitute.

(SIGNED) W.G. HAYTER

GENERAL

W14479
118

8 OCT 1939

1939

REFUGEES

Registry }
Number W14479/519/48

FROM Consul General
Phillips

No. (Shanghai).

304.

Dated 1st Sept. 1939.

Received }
in Registry } 8th Oct.
1939.

General : Refugees.

Entry of Jewish refugees into Shanghai.

Addressed to Shanghai Embassy No. 450.

Encloses copy of memorandum sent to local Jewish Refugee Committee by Japanese Naval Landing Party communicating the decision to enforce the registration of Jewish refugees in section of the International Settlement under Japanese control and to prohibit the entry of new arrivals and copy of letter from the Municipal Council announcing the decision to forbid further entry of refugees into the International Settlement.

Encloses copy of correspondence between German, Italian and Portuguese Consuls and Senior Consul protesting against the Council's decision.

Last Paper.

W 13793

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

14. B of T
H.O.
✓ Oct 11.

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

20/10
P.C./m.

Next Paper.

W. 17822

(Minutes.)

This merely confirms what we already
know from a telegram from Shanghai.
(W12050).

F.E. Dept. ^{14/10}
Treaty Dept. ^{10/10}
P.C. Dept. ^{19/10}

Copy B of T.
✓ H.O. ref.

G.M. 9/10.
A.W.R.
10/10

20

(COPY)

British Consulate-General,
Shanghai.

119

5 enclosures
Number 450

W14479

8 OCT 1939

September 1st 1939.

Copies to:
Foreign Office (3) No.304.

Sir,

With reference to my telegram No.121 of August the 15th, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for purpose of record, (a) a copy of a memorandum sent to the local Jewish Refugee Committee by the Japanese Naval Landing Party communicating the decision of the Japanese authorities to enforce before August 22nd the registration of all Jewish refugees residing in the northern section of the International Settlement under Japanese control, and to prohibit the entry into that area of new arrivals after the above date; and (b) a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council to members of the Consular Body announcing the Council's decision to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe.

2. As a result of negotiations held on on August the 17th between the Japanese authorities on the one hand and the Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Council and the French Consul-General (acting in the interests of the French Concession) on the other, it was decided

1. Memorandum
9/8/39

2. Secretary of
Shanghai Municipal
Council to H.M.
Consul-General,
14/8/39

3. Acting Consul-
General for Germany
to Senior Consul,
19/8/39

4. Acting Consul-
General for Italy
to Senior Consul,
16/8/39

5. Consul-General for
Portugal to Senior
Consul, 18/8/39

His Majesty's Ambassador,
British Embassy,
SHANGHAI.

/to

2.

to permit the landing in Shanghai of refugees who were already on their way to Shanghai, or shortly about to leave European ports for Shanghai. Under this ruling, refugees who left Hamburg in the S.S. "Potsdam" on August 18th will be allowed to land here, but no refugees will be permitted from vessels which sailed subsequent to that date.

3. In accordance with the request contained in the Shanghai Municipal Council's letter, the Consuls concerned (including my German and Italian colleagues) informed their home Governments and shipping companies of the Council's decision. The German and Italian Consuls-General however felt obliged to register pro forma protests against the action of the Council in reaching a decision which will put a stop to the flourishing refugee traffic hitherto carried on by the German and Italian lines, without having first secured the approval of the Consular Body. I enclose copies of the letters addressed to the Senior Consul in this connexion by my German and Italian colleagues, who were, somewhat surprisingly, supported in their attitude by the Consul-General for Portugal, a copy of whose letter to the Senior Consul is also enclosed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sd) Herbert Phillips
Consul-General.

MEMORANDUM

For some time past Jewish refugees were coming into Shanghai in large numbers, and still more of them are expected to follow in the future.

In the spirit that all races are equal, and sympathizing with the plight of the Jewish people, the Japanese Authorities have thus far placed no restriction upon their coming into the area controlled by the Japanese forces. Hence in the northern section of the International Settlement over 5000 refugees are estimated to be living and pursuing their trade. The humanitarian attitude of the Japanese Authorities would be much appreciated, especially in view of the fact that this area has not returned to normalcy as yet and the havoc wrought by the hostilities has caused a dearth of houses there. It is to be noted with particular attention that even the return of the Japanese to this area is not permitted unrestrictedly, not to mention the free return of the Chinese.

As an influx of refugees in exceedingly large numbers will have a direct bearing in numerous ways on the plan of reconstruction of the war-torn areas, it has lately been a subject of the most serious consideration of the Japanese Authorities. In the meanwhile, it was made clear that the Jewish leaders among the Refugee Committee wished to see, for the benefit of the refugees already arrived in Shanghai, that further influx be discouraged in some way or other. Taking into account relevant matters, including the interest of all the parties concerned, the Japanese authorities have reached the conclusion that they should take such steps as are within their power to stop temporarily a further increase of European refugees to the existing number, pending the study

of the possibility of accommodating a greater number of refugees in Shanghai.

The temporary steps to be taken by the Japanese authorities are as follows.

(1) The refugees residing in the northern section of the International Settlement under Japanese occupation on August are to fill in all the required particulars in two copies of the "Directory of Jewish Refugees", and forward them to the Japanese authorities through the Committee. (Copies for one family are to be put together in one batch).

(2) Upon inspection by the Japanese authorities, one of the copies is to be returned to the person who forwarded them.

(3) All the refugees in possession of the returned copy are to be allowed to reside as heretofore.

(4) Those who continue to reside, or take up their residence anew, in the said area without possessing the card may be asked to evacuate therefrom.

The Committee is requested to take suitable measures in accordance with the above and to use its influence in order to effect satisfactory registration and prevent newcomers in the said area.

SHANGHAI, August 9th, 1939.

Enclosure 2 in Shanghai despatch to Embassy Shanghai No.450 of
September 1st, 1939.

From the Secretary and Commissioner-General,
Shanghai Municipal Council, to H.B.M. Consul-
General, Shanghai.

14th August, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to letters written by the Chairman of the Council to the Senior Consul on December 23, 1938, and January 16, 1939, with reference to the influx into Shanghai of refugees from Europe. I am now directed to inform you that the Council is compelled to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe. Steps will be taken to prevent any such further immigration.

This information is being conveyed to each member of the Consular Body.

I have the honour to request that you may be good enough to take steps to inform all interested British authorities and shipping companies of the Council's decision.

The Council has not overlooked the fact that there are a number of refugees who have already embarked with the intention of coming to Shanghai. Although no communication has been received by the Council from the Japanese authorities, it is understood that the Japanese authorities have informed the local Committees responsible for the refugees that no further entry of refugees will be permitted into that part of the Settlement which lies North of the Soochow Creek. It would appear that it is only in that part of the Settlement that accommodation for any further influx of refugees can be found. Should the Japanese

/authorities

2.

authorities be willing, for humanitarian reasons, to permit the entry into that part of the Settlement to which I have referred of those refugees who have already embarked for Shanghai, the Council will be willing to co-operate to this end.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) G. Godfrey Phillips

Secretary and Commissioner
General.

Enclosure 3 in Shanghai despatch to Embassy Shanghai No.450 of
September 1st, 1939.

From the Acting Consul-General for Germany,
Shanghai, to the Senior Consul, Shanghai.

Po. 1 c
8419/39

August 19th, 1939.

Sir and dear Colleague,

I have the honour to refer to the letter of August 14th, 1939, by which the Shanghai Municipal Council notified the members of the Consular Body that the Council was compelled to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe, and that steps could be taken to prevent any such further immigration.

As the decision taken by the Municipal Council is in my opinion not compatible with the legal competences of the Council, I am not in a position to recognize the validity of the decision in question. I enclose herewith copy of a letter to the Secretary and Commissioner General of the Council in which I have summarised my attitude in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir and dear Colleague,

Your obedient servant,

(Sd) E. Bracklo

Acting Consul-General for Germany.

Paul Scheel, Esquire,
Consul-General for Denmark and
Senior Consul,
SHANGHAI.

Sub-enclosure

From the Acting Consul-General for Germany,
Shanghai, to The Secretary and Commissioner
General, Shanghai Municipal Council.

Po. 1 c
8419/39

August 19th 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter - K 38/1 - dated August 14th, 1939, by which you informed me that the Shanghai Municipal Council was compelled to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe, and that steps would be taken to prevent any such further immigration. I have informed my Government and the local German shipping companies accordingly.

Although fully understanding the various reasons which have induced the Municipal Council to take the decision in question I am not able to recognize the validity of it unless the decision has received the approval of the competent authorities, which, as far as I know, has not been the case. In view of the difficult problems the Council is faced with by the mass-immigration of Jewish emigrants, I am, however, disposed to acquiesce in the Council's decision on the condition that those emigrants that have already embarked for Shanghai will still be admitted and that detailed regulations be promulgated as soon as possible with regard to the entry into Shanghai of relatives of such emigrants that are already residing here and of other persons that will be able to support themselves without having recourse to the local relief organisations.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Sd) E. Bracklo
Acting Consul-General for Germany.

Enclosure 4 in Shanghai despatch to Embassy Shanghai No.450 of
September 1st, 1939.

From the Acting Consul-General for Italy to
the Senior Consul, Shanghai.

August 16th, 1939.

No.1525

Pos. A. 1. a.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the circular letter of the Shanghai Municipal Council dated the 14th instant by which the Members of the Consular Body were notified that the Council is compelled to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe and that steps will be taken to prevent any such further immigration.

This R. Consulate-General will not fail to inform the Italian Government on the opportunity of preventing the embarking from Italian ports of refugees having Shanghai as their port of destination, and this above all in consideration of the fact that the local Japanese Authorities have also adopted measures preventing the entry of refugees into the northern section of the International Settlement controlled by the Japanese forces. But, on the other hand, this Consulate-General is forced to protest, through you, against the decision taken by the Shanghai Municipal Council without the full agreement of the Consular Body, which decision therefore has no value due to its wrongly approached form.

However, recognizing the fact that the steps taken by the Council are absolutely necessary for public order, this Consulate-General is ready to sanction the proposal provided it is adopted and confirmed within a regular Consular Body Meeting.

I would greatly appreciate your courtesy in kindly informing me of your opinion on the subject.

Poul Sheel, Esquire,
Consul-General for Denmark
and Senior Consul,
SHANGHAI.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

(Sd) G. Brigidi

Enclosure 5 in Shanghai despatch to Embassy Shanghai No.450 of
September 1st, 1939.

From the Consul-General for Portugal, Shanghai,
to the Senior Consul, Shanghai.

No.443

18th August, 1939.

Pr. 92

Sir,

I am in full agreement with our Colleague
G. Brigidi, Acting Consul-General for Italy
when he stated in his letter No.1525, Pos.A.1.a,
dated August 16.

But, on the other hand, this Consulate-General
is forced to protest, through you, against the
decision taken by the Shanghai Municipal Council
without the full agreement of the Consular Body,
which decision therefore has no value due to its
wrongly approached form.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) J.A. Ribeiro de Melo

Consul-General.

Poul Scheel, Esquire,

Consul-General for Denmark and
Senior Consul,

SHANGHAI.

GENERAL

W17822

120

2 DEC 1939

REFUGEES

Registry } W 17822/519/48
Number }FROM Consul-General
Phillips
(Shanghai).

No. 363.

Dated 30th Oct:1939
Received 2nd Dec:1939
Registry

General:Refugees.

Entry of Jewish refugees into Shanghai.

Refers to Shanghai Consul-General despatch No.304 of 1st September (W 14479/519/48). Transmits copy of a despatch to Shanghai Embassy enclosing a copy of a statement issued by the Shanghai Municipal Council modifying the restrictions in respect of the International Settlement so as to permit the entry of refugees in possession of sufficient funds to maintain themselves and of refugees who possess suitable family or business connexions.

Last Paper.

W. 14479.

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

14.7/1.
A.O. Dec. 8(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

JHU, 23/12

RC 2p/40

Next Paper.

(Minutes.)

F.E. Dept. *[initials]*
Treaty Dept. *[initials]*
A.C. Dept. *[initials]*
R.T. *[initials]*
23/12

Copy B.G.T.
✓ H.O.

G.M. War. 5/12
Jumb -
6/12

No. 363
(and 2 copies)

30
W17822

121

HIS Majesty's Consul-General at Shanghai
presents his compliments to His Majesty's Principal Secretary
of State for Foreign Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Consulate-General,
Shanghai.

October 30th, 1939.

Reference to previous correspondence :

Shanghai despatch to Embassy Shanghai No.450 of September 1st
(No.304 to Foreign Office) 1939
W.14679/519/48 Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Shanghai despatch to Embassy Shanghai No.577 of October 30th 1939.	Entry of refugees into Shanghai: modification of restrictions by Shanghai Municipal Council.

(COPY)

British Consulate-General,
Shanghai. 122

1 enclosure

October 30th 1939

No.577

Copies to:
Foreign Office (3) No.363,
Hongkong.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No.450
of the 1st September reporting the introduction
of measures by the Shanghai Municipal Council
and the Japanese authorities prohibiting the
entry of Jewish refugees into Shanghai, I have
the honour to enclose herein a copy of a state-
ment issued by the Shanghai Municipal Council
modifying the restrictions in respect of the
International Settlement so as to permit the
entry of refugees in possession of sufficient
funds to enable them to maintain themselves
here for some time and of refugees who possess
suitable family or business connections in
Shanghai.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,
humble servant,

(Sd) Herbert Phillips

Consul-General.

His Majesty's Ambassador,
British Embassy,
SHANGHAI.

Statement by Shang-
hai Municipal
Council, 22/10/39

Entry of European Refugees

In August last the Shanghai Municipal Council announced that it was compelled to forbid any further entry into the International Settlement of refugees from Europe. The Council now announces that this prohibition will not apply to those coming within the following categories:-

- (1) persons who possess, available for use in Shanghai, not less than U.S.\$400 in the case of an adult, or not less than U.S.\$100 in the case of a child of less than 13 years of age, or the equivalent of such sums in some foreign currency.

The responsibility of verifying the possession of such requisite sums before passage bookings are made devolves upon the shipping or railway companies or other travel agents, who must obtain a certificate from the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai as to the availability in Shanghai of such sums.

- (2) persons who obtain an entry permit from the Council on the grounds that
 - (a) they are immediate family relations (i.e., parents, husbands, wives or children) of refugees of certified financial competency resident in Shanghai; or
 - (b) they have a contract of employment with a resident in Shanghai; or
 - (c) they intend to contract marriage with a resident in Shanghai.

Applications for such entry permits must be made to the Council through the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees in Shanghai and addressed in writing to Room 446, Cathay Hotel. The granting or

/refusing

refusing^{of}/a permit is at the discretion of the Council. Applications submitted through the Committee for the Assistance of European Jewish Refugees will be investigated by the Special Branch of the police Department before permits are issued.

Note. At the present time these regulations are only applicable to that part of the International Settlement which lies South of the Soochow Creek. Refugees desirous of residing in that part of the International Settlement which lies North of the Soochow Creek must comply with the regulations of the Japanese authorities.

Shanghai Municipal Council,
October 22, 1939.

